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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD, 2009

It's celebration time (again) as GCSE pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive get their results

RIGHT: These two students were clearly happy after opening their brown envelopes

FOLLOWING on from their excellent A-Level results, Cowbridge Comprehensive School had even more cause to celebrate last Thursday (August 27), as they announced the best set of GCSE results the school had ever obtained.

The school had a pass rate of 99.5 per cent from 214 pupils, with the percentage of pupils obtaining at least a C grade in the core subjects 79 per cent, another best for the school.

There were 2,346 exam entries, with 91 per cent gaining at least five A*-C grades.

Pupils George Spill and Chloe Wilson had extra cause to celebrate, the former obtaining nine A* grades and two A's, while Choe found herself getting 10 A* grades.

The school's head, Mrs Evans, was 'delighted' with the results: "It is a fantastic achievement by all of the students, and it is all the more impressive that we have managed this while construction work has been taking place around the school.

"I would like to congratulate the pupils, but also I cannot praise the staff enough; they have shown an adaptable approach to teaching during the work.

"Both they and the students have pulled out all the stops, and I am thrilled at what has been achieved."

(Turn to page 4 to see more pictures of Cowbridge Comprehensive's record-breaking GCSE pupils)

Cate is proof that the Vale has singing talent!

A COWBRIDGE schoolgirl will be representing Wales in the 'Festival for the Stars' competition which is to be held in Glasgow.

Cate McHugh, aged 15, a pupil studying GCSEs at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, told The GEM:

"In May, I entered a 'Festival for the Stars' heat at the Princess Theatre, Port Talbot.

"The day was rather like Britain's Got Talent – there were hundreds of youngsters there.

"The first audition was private, but the second performance had to be in front of everybody, and there were about 500 people.

"I performed a cover of a Miley Cyrus song, 'The Climb', accompanying myself on guitar.

"I had a wonderful day, and won the solo singing adult category.

"I'm really excited to be going through to the national finals to represent Wales in Glasgow."

If Cate wins in Glasgow, she will be in line for a recording contract, three months of tuition in a London music school and specialist time with a songwriter in a recording studio.

Nerve-wracking

She said: "Performing in front of 500 people was a nerve-wracking experience, but now I am just looking forward to going to Scotland in November.

"I also recently entered the 'Open Mic UK' event.

"The judges seemed to like me and have put me through to perform before a live audience in the regional finals in a lovely old theatre, St George's in Bristol, at the end of October."

Cate, who lives in Llantwit Major and composes her own songs, hopes that in both competitions the fact that she is accompanying herself will give her an edge.

She explained: "I hope the judges might look upon it as a bit more individual, because a lot of the contestants tend to sing, rather than sing and play an instrument too."

Cate has her sights set on a solo career in the future.

Why this Vale dad is planning a sponsored sky dive from 12,000 ft

VALE dad Alun Williams, whose daughter was born severely handicapped, is carrying out a sponsored sky dive to raise funds for the Y Bont centre at Bridgend which helps to care for her.

Alun, who lives in St Athan with his wife Vikki, explained: "Last October, our daughter Elis was born with a genetic anomaly called CHARGE syndrome and is severely handicapped.

"CHARGE affects one in 10,000 births, so luckily only a few children will be born with this condition each year.

"Each letter of CHARGE stands for a group of disabling conditions and is caused by a genetic mutation during pregnancy.

"Thankfully, CHARGE is rare in the community – but as a result, little is known about it outside of specialist medicine. Treatment requires multiple interventions in hospital and from a variety of other professionals.

"Families with disabled children need support to help with the daily tasks associated with caring for their family. We have been very fortunate in obtaining a place for Elis in the Y Bont special nursery at Bridgend, as there are no similar facilities in the Vale.

"Y Bont is a purpose-built family centre in Bridgend. It is a unique service that aims to provide care and support to children with a disability. This is achieved through high quality play, support and medical services

"The original remit of the centre has extended beyond day care facilities and now offers holiday play schemes, after-school club and a Saturday club for children with Autism.

"Y Bont relies heavily on volunteers to continue its good work and they have a team of very good, committed volunteers who contribute their time freely week to week. Y Bont is a registered charity and is extremely grateful for any kind donations or help in fundraising.

"We have been so grateful to have this opportunity for Elis to use the facilities of Y Bont to aid her development. This facility also helps by providing a breathing space to carry out our daily activities, as well as looking after our two other children," he added.

Alun's skydive is planned to take place on September 20 and will involve jumping from a plane at 12,000 feet strapped to an instructor, freefalling for 7,000 feet and then landing by parachute from 5,000 feet ("hopefully!").

"The target is to raise £1,000 and we are some way to achieving this, but would welcome any additional support towards achieving this target," Alun said.

● If anyone would like to support Alun by sponsoring his skydive they can do so by going to www.justgiving.com/alun-williams3

Y Bont can be contacted at Ewenny Road, Bridgend, CF31 3HT; telephone: 01656 646013, Fax: 01656 646866, E-mail: ybont@hotmail.com. Donations to Y Bont may be made by going to justgiving.com and typing in ybont - it will take you to their page.

ABOVE: Alun gives Elis a cuddle.

Woman injured in roller drama

POLICE are investigating an incident which left a 26-year-old Pontyclun woman with a suspected fractured skull and other head injuries.

Emma Winch, who plays full-back for the Pontyclun ladies rugby team, was camping with team mates in a field near Aberaeron RFC.

They were taking part in the annual Festival of Sevens staged over the bank holiday by the club.

As the girls were settling down to sleep in the early hours of Saturday, they heard laughter, followed by a rumbling sound.

A two-ton roller parked in the field had been released and rolled over the tent, striking Ms Winch on the head.

She was rescued from the tent and taken to Bronglais Hospital and later transferred to Morriston. Staff there believe that she may have fractured her skull and cheekbone, but further examinations were due to take place this week.

She was discharged in the meantime.

Speaking afterwards, Ms Winch said she felt lucky to be alive – "But I am annoyed about what happened," she said.

"There has been no apology. This incident has ruined everything."

Teams from all parts of Wales were participating over the weekend.

A spokesman for Dyfed Powys Police said that as a result of their inquiries, 21 members of the Merthyr Tydfil Youth team had been arrested and bailed, pending further inquiries.

Their team was thrown out of the competition by organisers following the incident.

Two hurt in crash

TWO cars were involved in a collision on the A48 outside Cottrell Park Golf Club at about 5.20pm on Tuesday (September 1).

A police spokesman reported: "One man was thrown from a vehicle and another sustained suspected head injuries.

"Their injuries are described as non-life threatening."

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www.grovegolf.com

COWBRIDGE LITTER LOUT

THIS afternoon, I was walking in Cae Stumpie and was shocked to see a total stranger drop his fish and chip paper onto the pavement, right outside my house.

I ran after him and asked him: "Why are you dropping your litter on my front path?"

He replied: "Mind your own business", and threw the rest of his meal into my neighbour's garden.

Why isn't there a policeman around when you want one?

M Gold, Cowbridge

Thank you to the children's centre

WE write with an enormous 'thank you' to all of the staff at Gibbonsdown Children's Centre in Barry.

Our son recently enjoyed a very emotional last day in the nursery there – he had been at the nursery since he was 18 months old.

He's now four and a half and starting school. The nursery has been a huge part of his life, and the staff there had become part of the family. He, and we, are going to miss you all very much.

From mum and dad, we'd really like to thank everyone for their absolutely wonderful work, and for the continued work they will no doubt do for all the other children.

Of course, if we need the help of the play scheme during the school holidays, we'll make sure this is not the last you see of him!

To all at the centre, we thank you so very much for your unending dedication and devotion to making sure our children have the right start in life and the perfect preparation for school.

Charlie, Ellie, Odge and Jayne Wilding-West, Barry

Help The Heroes

May I bring to your readers' attention the charity Help for Heroes, and thank those Vale people who have already made a generous donation to this worthwhile cause.

Help for Heroes are strictly non political; they don't want to discuss the right and wrongs of a particular war, they simply want to help those wounded in them.

They need to raise money to help the wounded by giving them the very best; they do more, risk more, sacrifice more and we want to give them more.

They say that they are just ordinary blokes doing their jobs, we say they are Heroes and we want to help our Heroes.

Please convey this message – if you see a money tin in Llantwit Major petrol station, the Kings Head, The Tudor Tavern or Llantwit Major Rugby club, pop a donation in. No matter how little, your help will go a long way to help our heroes.

If you would like to make a contribution to Help for Heroes and have some fun at the same time, please come to the sponsors' day at Llantwit Major Rugby Club on Sunday, August 30, from 1pm.

Steve Morgan

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THE COLUMN YOU WRITE

Readers' Letters

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. Letters and emails MUST include full address and a contact telephone number. An email address alone is not sufficient. We will (*in certain circumstances*), protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters brief and address them to: The Editor, Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL.

Frightening hazard for elderly on road

THROUGH The GEM, I am hoping that the First Minister and his departments will become aware of the frightening and dangerous experience being faced by the elderly with Zimmer frames and mobility scooters, not to mention families with prams, trying to get to the shops from the housing estates bordering Limes Road, Cowbridge.

This road has a bottleneck stretch, a blind bend, and is hilly.

It is only wide enough for one vehicle at a time, and some vehicles travel at breakneck speed with no refuge for pedestrians and no pavement.

Pedestrians are forced to squeeze against a wall, hoping not to be run down.

It is surely time that the adjacent dormant plot was acquired and the road widened with provision of a pavement?

It seems that this area is being treated as second class, with no serious consideration for the safety of its pedestrians.

Why on earth are the council allowing this very dangerous situation to continue year after year at the Limes Road?

Money cannot be the excuse, for, like out of a magic box, vast sums are being produced and granted for some outlandish scheme or other.

Can the Welsh Assembly Government, take control of this problem and get the unfair situation rectified?

A first step should be traffic calming measures.

Gordon Deaves, Cowbridge

14 full time jobs will be lost at fire station

HOW sad to see Cowbridge Fire Station slowly being manned by part-time firemen – and I hope that people training to become part-timers understand what they are doing.

You are slowly taking away 14 full-time firemen's jobs!

The Fire Service will tell you these men will be going to other stations in the brigade, but what they will not tell you is that when you become a part-time fireman in Cowbridge, you are taking away the positions of 14 full-time firemen from the station for good.

That's 14 fewer full time jobs in the town of Cowbridge.

The way that this can be stopped is if you do not become a part time fireman at Cowbridge – then we can keep our highly skilled and highly trained firemen and the 14 full time posts open for the future.

If the Fire Service would like to save money, I'm sure there are some highly-paid pen-pushing officers at Fire Service HQ whose jobs can be done by civilian staff for half the money that they get paid.

(Name and address supplied)

People of Llantwit did town proud

THANK you to all those from Llantwit Major and further afield who attended the Summer Sounds event in the Precinct on Sunday, August 16.

It was a family day with live music and entertainment, a fantastic fun atmosphere, where everyone was enjoying themselves and with no sign of the trouble so often associated with these types of outdoor events.

I have been involved with the Summer Sounds event for several years now, and this year's extravaganza topped the lot!

The event would not have been possible without the valued support and sponsorship of a number of organisations, businesses and individuals, including: the Vale Council, Llantwit Major Town Council, McLay Printers, NPower – Aberthaw Power Station, Rob Turner Electrical, John Wilmott (Sound), Filco Foods and The GEM, to name but a few.

It would also be remiss of me not to mention the support received from the local traders in the Precinct and surrounding areas. Thank you to all!

Phil Kirkham, Major Music

Are yellow boxes 'no parking zones' or not?

CAN a GEM reader kindly explain to me the purpose of the yellow boxed areas in the section reserved for disabled parking and recycling in the Cowbridge Town Hall car park?

I have always been under the impression (apparently wrongly) that yellow boxed areas were strictly 'no parking zones'.

However, insofar as Cowbridge is concerned, this is not the case. Cars are parked in these areas without censure 24 hours a day!

In fact, one white van is actually parked, on most days, in the yellow boxed entrance, thereby cutting the entrance width by 50 per cent and making it one-way only.

This parking does make it difficult to reach the recycling containers for which I can only guess the boxed areas were originally provided.

Mr FG Raiment, Cowbridge

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL SEPTEMBER 10)

The high tides listed in The GEM are those in Barry. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Porthcawl, the high point will be 15– 20 minutes earlier.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
3 Thur	07.01	13.7	19.27	13.9
4 Fri	07.38	14.0	19.53	14.4
5 Sat	08.08	14.3	20.24	14.5
6 Sun	08.40	14.4	20.58	14.6
7 Mon	09.13	14.5	21.32	14.6
8 Tues	09.45	14.4	22.07	14.3
9 Wed	10.22	14.2	22.41	14.0
10 Thur	10.54	13.7	23.16	13.3

USEFUL VALE INFORMATION

CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555111
(Emergency number 999)
COASTGUARD 01792 366534
FLOOD LINE 0845 9881188
HELPLINES
Alcohol and drugs:
Drinkline **0800 9178282**
National Drugs Helpline **0800 776600**
DASH **01656 650686**
SSAFA – Forces Help for serving and ex-service men, women and families **01656 785435**
RAF Association Welfare Officer 01495 249522/01446 740522
SAMARITANS (emotional support) **01656 662333**
VALE WOMEN'S AID 01446 744755
MENTAL DISTRESS
(Mental Health Matters) **01656 767045**
Mental Health Helpline:
Freephone **0800 132 737**
MIND in the Vale of Glamorgan
01446 730792 or www.mindinthevale.org.uk
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 - www.childline.org.uk
Rape Crisis Centre 08451 221331.
RSPCA 0300 123 0744. MIND 01446 746191.
AIDS helplines 0800 567123.
Child abuse – NSPCC 0800 800500.
Alcoholics Anonymous – (24 hours) 0845 7697555.
Drug Aid (24 hours) 02920 881000.
Inroads Drugs Project – 42, Holton Road, Barry. 01446 404040.
Vale Victim & Witness Support -
Barry Magistrates Court, Thompson Street, Barry CF63 4SX. 01446 730704.

MP & AM's SURGERY TIMES

To make a surgery appointment with John Smith MP, contact the constituency office (01446) 743769. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

To make a surgery appointment with Jane Hutt AM, contact the constituency office (01446) 740981. Office hours are 9am-5pm. Answerphone service outside office hours.

CITIZENS' ADVICE

At 119 Broad Street, Barry. Drop in Mon-Fri 9.30am - 11.30am (Wed 4-6pm); at Llantwit Major Youth Centre, 9.30am - 11.30am Mon and Fri. Telephone advice 0845 120 3756. *Further information www.adviceguide.org.uk*

EMERGENCY SERVICES

Police - Gladstone Road, Barry; for normal service 01446 734451; in emergency 999. Fire - South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Pontyclun 01443 232000; in emergency 999. Coastguard - Regional Office, Swansea 01792 366534; in emergency 999.

Gas - Gas emergency number 0800 111999.

Electricity - Emergency 0800 0520400; Water - Emergency 0800 052 0130; supply 0800 0520130.

Trading Standards Consumer Advice Centre - Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry; hours of opening for telephone enquiries - Monday to Thursday, 8.30am-5pm; Friday 8.30am-4.30pm on 01446 709105. For personal visits, Monday to Thursday 9am-4.30pm. Friday 9am-4pm. Recycling Hotline - 02920 673000.

To report a fly tipping incident - 02920 673000.

HOSPITALS

The Barry Hospital - visiting 2pm-8pm each day, 01446 704000. Llandough - Wards have individual visiting times. For details call 029 2071 1711. Princess of Wales - 01656 752752/668090.

For Out Of Hours Chemists, call the Vale of Glamorgan Local Health Board on 02920 350600, or NHS Direct Wales on 0845 4647.

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Ancient Druid points to the story of Cowbridge

THE Cowbridge and District Local History Society has been firmly established in the calendar of events in the town for more than 40 years.

On the first Friday of every month, it offers a lecture to members and anyone else who would like to attend.

Although its brief is essentially local history, this covers a broad range of topics – from archaeology to the police and pirates.

Talks usually last about 50 minutes, followed by a lively discussion between audience and speaker.

There are convivial refreshments after the talks, usually a cup of tea, but sometimes something stronger!

This year's session begins with a talk on the archaeological and historical discoveries made during the renovation of one of Cowbridge's oldest houses, the Ancient Druid in Eastgate, by its new owners, Mr and Mrs Evans.

Many will know the alleged origin of the house as a pilgrim house on the route to St David's, but now much more has come to light.

In September, 70 years ago, the Second World War broke out and Cowbridge and the Vale were not immune from its cataclysmic events. It is appropriate then that the society should recall some of its effects.

The first lecture on this topic, in October, will look at the establishment of the Royal Ordnance Factory at Bridgend, one of the major centres for armaments manufacture which employed more than 40,000 people at its peak.

The second will be in March when the speaker from CADW will tell us something of the anti-invasion landscape of the Cowbridge area.

Membership is £7.50 but single events can be attended for £1.

The first meeting is on Friday, September 4 at 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of the Town Hall, preceded by a brief AGM. Sparkling wine and fruit tarts will be served afterwards! Why not join us?

DICK BUSWELL
(Chair, Cowbridge and District Local History Society)

Local support group for breast cancer

ARE you suffering from breast cancer? Could any of the statements below refer to you?

"I just don't know how we're going to manage financially now that I'm going to be off work and having treatment!"

"I can't really talk to anyone at home as I know it will only worry them if I bring up my own concerns!"

"I'm feeling so low emotionally I don't know who to turn to. I know there are medical staff and even my own doctor, but I don't want to be a nuisance and waste peoples' time."

"No one seems to understand what I'm going through."

Why not join a breast cancer support group where you'll meet people who've possibly had similar problems themselves and will lend a sympathetic ear?

A trouble shared is a trouble halved, so they say, and sometimes just talking about your concerns can be a great help.

So why not come along and join with us every other Wednesday. We meet for coffee and therapies, (Reiki, Indian head massage, reflexology etc, provided by two qualified therapists), have interesting and relevant speakers, and go on social outings together – Brecon Canal boat trip, St Donat's Art Centre to see a film, Clyne Gardens, The Gower, etc.

We are here to help and support each other in a very informal way and who knows, resolving your concerns could enable you to help others one day!

For more information ring: The Lift Group – Anne on 01446 772843 or Morveen on 01656 650645. **MP**

Guides help to 'Change the World'

THE celebrations for the Centenary of Girlguiding start on Saturday, September 5, but building up towards that date, Girlguiding UK has a massive project - 'Change the World', in which every member of Girlguiding has been encouraged to take part.

The individual units decided which charity to support from a number of charities which had designed projects specifically for the event. One was Water Aid.

The Leader of the 1st Cowbridge Beaver Scouts, a Llantwit Major Trefoil Guild member, decided to do Water Aid activities with the Beaver Scouts, such as balancing water on their heads.

After this, the children decided to have a car wash at the Fire Station, which they had recently visited, to make some money to support the charity.

With the support of generous parents and friends, and the kind help of the firefighters, they made £130; £30 went to the Firefighters' Benevolent Fund, and £100 was handed over to some of the 1st Cowbridge Rainbow Guides who had a joint meeting and a sing-song with the Beavers in aid of Water Aid.

The Rainbow Guides had already had a sponsored skip when they raised £56 and an Island Cafe meeting, when they raised £40 towards supporting Girlguiding in the nine branch associations around the world, such as Anguilla, Bermuda, Montserrat, St Helena etc.

The project will set up internet cafes for their members to meet and socialise, and to study and do homework in a safe, girls-only space.

So far 7,000 members of Girlguiding UK have raised £47,000 for Water Aid; 5,300 have learnt to sign their Promise, over 50,000 trees have been planted with the Woodland Trust, 3,000 members have raised enough money to send 280 girls to school in Africa, nearly 12,000 books have been donated to projects with Book Aid International, and many other projects are still going on.

Girlguiding UK is certainly helping to 'Change the World' and these Cowbridge children are proud to have taken part.

GILL CLAY

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST BRIDES MAJOR
Your local correspondent is
Patricia Bevan-Morgan
(01656) 880418

Dates for your diary

AT the Heritage Coast Centre, John Hemsley will be staging an exhibition of 'Our Heritage' Watercolour Landscapes on September 5-6 from 11am-5pm, his last exhibition at this venue.

WICK Horticulture Show on Saturday, September 5 at the Village Hall, Wick (see schedules).

ST BRIDES branch of Mothers' Union meet on September 8 at 7.30pm when the guest speaker will be Michelle Fitzpatrick, recycling officer for the Vale of Glamorgan.

VILLAGE harvest show and fayre at the school on September 12 – lots of competitions for adults and children.

OGMORE by Sea Retired Residents Association meet on September 17 at the Watermill for bar lunch, followed by annual auction. New members welcome.

FRIENDS of the Heritage Coast are holding an open day at the Heritage Centre, Southerndown, on Sunday, September 20 at 2.30pm.

HARVEST Festival Service at St Bridget's on Sunday, September 27 followed by harvest lunch at the Church Hall.

ALL SAINTS harvest service on Sunday evening at 6pm, followed by cheese and wine supper.

AT Ewenny Priory harvest service on September 29 at 7pm, the preacher will be the new Assistant Bishop of Llandaff, David Wilbourne.

This will be followed by a harvest supper to celebrate 10 years since the restoration of the Priory Church.

Valeways walks

SEPTEMBER 6, 2pm: Cwm George, St Andrews Church, St Andrews Major; **September 13**, 2.30pm: Hollywood Castle – Marcross to St Donats, Holy Trinity Church, Marcross; **September 15**, 1.30pm: St Fagans Castle Grounds and Gardens, St Fagans main entrance steps. Car park free; **September 16**, 2pm: Llanmaes – Llanmihangel, Blacksmiths Arms, Llanmaes; **September 20**, 2pm: Porthkerry Park Millennium Trail Circular, Porthkerry Country Park, Barry, main car park.

Breast Test Wales returns

BREAST Test Wales, the Breast Cancer Screening Service, is set to return to Cowbridge this autumn.

Women aged 50 and over will be eligible to attend for a mammogram (breast x-ray) while the mobile screening unit is based at Town Hall Car Park, Cowbridge from September-November 2009.

The service operates on an 'invitation only' system, which means women are unable to 'drop in' for a test.

Women aged 50-70 years and who are registered with Cowbridge & Western Vale group practice and Cowbridge & Vale medical practice will automatically receive an invitation by post.

Dafydd Snelling, Screening Promotion Officer for Breast Test Wales, commented: "We would like to encourage women who have never attended to take up their appointment this time.

"The best way of screening for breast cancer is by having regular mammograms, as you may not be able to see or feel any early changes to your breasts.

"If breast cancer is detected at an early stage the outcomes can be greatly improved."

Each woman has two x-rays taken of each breast. The service is free and the appointment should not exceed 30 minutes.

Women under the age of 50 are encouraged to be Breast Aware and report any changes in their breast to their GP without delay.

For any further information about breast screening visit Breast Test Wales' website on : www.screeningservices.org.uk/btw

Save the Children to benefit as Cowbridge girls come back home

ABOVE: Organiser Samantha Edwards

ABOVE: Cellist Mary Elliott.

A CLASSICAL music concert will be held at Holy Cross Church in Cowbridge on Saturday, September 12, with all proceeds going towards Save the Children.

Performers on the evening will include Cowbridge cellist Mary Elliott, who will be joined by violinist David McCarroll from California, and English pianist Katherine Freeman.

Graduates of the Yehudi Menuhin School, Royal Academy of Music and New England Conservatory in Boston, these talented young musicians have performed as soloists around the globe.

The concert will include works by Handel, Saint Saens, Ysaye and Rachmaninov.

Local cellist Mary Elliott (24) has performed as a soloist throughout the UK in venues such as the Purcell Room, St Martin in the Field, Mercers Hall, Brangwyn Hall and has given concerts in France, Switzerland, Tunisia, Russia, the United States and Thailand, for the Thai royal family.

She said: "The idea for the concert came when I met up with my friend Samantha Edwards who works as a music consultant in London, and has helped organise the concert.

"Both of us are from the same village and attended Y Bont Faen and Llansannor primary schools, and later Howell's School in Cardiff together."

During the visit, the musicians will also put on concerts at local care homes Southways in Cowbridge and Manor House in St Hilary.

The event also aims to encourage the involvement of local schoolchildren.

Tickets cost £8 (to include a glass of wine), and are available from Blushbaby, Quills, Xantippe, W G Davies, Cowbridge Comprehensive School and Howell's School, Llandaff.

Transition Cowbridge organises workshops

ABOVE: The Transition groups meet at Coed Hills.

A NETWORK of Transition groups from Cardiff, Vale and the Valleys gathered at Coed Hills on Bank Holiday Saturday, led by chairman of Transition Cowbridge, Rob McGhee and Eva Trier, who heads the Cardiff Transition project.

The diverse group numbered over 50 people and included engineers, teachers, artists, community workers, working and retired and visitors from Germany and Australia.

Coed Hills provided workshops during the day on beekeeping, vegetable growing and a practical session on how to build a solar thermal panel for heating domestic hot water.

Further courses will be run on bread-making and wild food foraging.

Grant for centre

THE St Cattwg village hall is the first to receive a grant of £37,000 from the Inspire Grant Scheme – to make much-needed improvements, including a new kitchen, new toilets and a storage room.

Committee member Jeff Robinson said: "The hall has been crying out for these improvements, so when Creative Rural Communities announced their funding in January this year, we were delighted.

"The whole community have supported the project and the hall has a new social committee who have given the thumbs-up to the improvements."

The project received funding through the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-2013, funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development.

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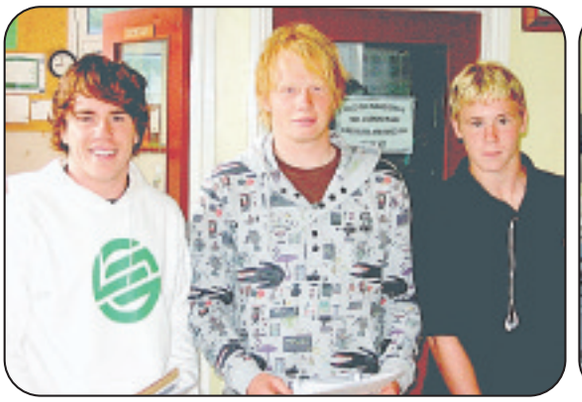
‘Best results ever’ for Cowbridge GCSE students



PICTURES ON THIS PAGE by GARETH JAMIESON

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, “Tynewydd”, Llangan. (01656) 860303

IRON MAN

CONGRATULATIONS to Welsh ‘Iron Man’, Mr Richard Jones of ‘Trelawn’, Treoes, who broke the Welsh record in the recent Iron Man competition in Germany.

Richard’s events included 3-8km swim, 180km bike ride and 42km run.

EXAM RESULTS

CONGRATULATIONS to the pupils of Cowbridge Comprehensive School on the excellent results of their A-Level exams, and to those who did not succeed, try again.

Better luck next time!

DIARY DATES

ST CANNA’S CHURCH, Llangan: September 19 – the church will be open to visitors to examine records.

Details of how the vestry project is progressing will be on display. Refreshments will be served and a warm welcome will be extended to everyone.

A harvest festival service at St Canna’s will take place on Sunday, September 27 at 11.15am. Please note, this service will replace the usual one at 6.30pm.

RUBBISH DUMPED

SEVERAL bags of rubbish have been deposited at the top end of Elasto Lane, Llangan.

They were dumped near the entrance to a field. The bags are green, not the usual black bags provided by the Vale Council.

Police hold a surgery on the beach at Ogmore

POLICE in the rural Vale held a special beach surgery during the final weekend of the school summer holidays.

Police Constable Robin Mellor, of the rural Vale’s Neighbourhood Policing Team, explained “Throughout the summer, we have been running a special operation, targeting the popular beaches and coastal car parks – to keep the area’s popular beauty spots safe for everyone to enjoy.

“We have maintained a high profile policing presence across the area, patrolling car parks and beaches, as well as deploying police ‘Decoy Vehicles’.

He said that he had held a beach surgery at Ogmore Beach car park on Saturday (August 29) to meet as many people as possible who have been visiting the area.

“A police van was equipped with table and chairs where people could come and meet me and discuss any issues of concern to them,” the officer added.

Regional AM is to raise nurses issue

THE THREAT to special cancer nurses funded by a charity that has disbanded, is being raised at the Welsh Assembly by regional AM Alun Cairns.

Cancer Care Cymru employed 11 nurses to care for cancer patients in hospitals including Velindre, Llandough and Princess of Wales.

The charity closed down recently because of financial problems caused by the recession and talks are now underway within the NHS Trusts to keep the nurses in post.

Mr Cairns said that he had submitted questions to the Assembly about what action is being taken to secure funding for these posts.

Mr Cairns explained: “I understand that there is money to keep them in post until December but the position is unclear after that.

“I will be pressing Health Minister Edwina Hart to find the money to keep this crucial service going.”

He added: “Cancer sufferers and their families need support at what is a very difficult and emotional time.

“It is a great shame that the good work done by this south Wales charity has had to stop.

“These nurses work alongside their NHS colleagues and are able to provide that crucial bit of extra care.”

WWW.COWBRIDGE-TODAY.CO.UK

VWBN talks business (and more) at Show

THE Vale Women’s Business Network certainly lived up to its networking name at the Vale Show.

Sponsored by VWBN member Rebecca Exley, of Groundwater Ltd, the VWBN stand showed how to keep children safe on the internet, and offered nutritional advice, fabulous award-winning photography, physiotherapy and business advice.

Also present was VWBN patron Jane Hutt, AM for the Vale. ***For more information about VWBN, contact www.vwbn.org.uk***

CADS present a French classic

THE Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society’s production of *Art,* by Yasmina Reza, is being performed at the Market theatre this week (September 3, 4, 5) at 8pm.

Art is a French play about French men written by a French-born woman with Hungarian and Iranian parents.

The central characters are Serve who is ‘really into art’; Marc who is into homeopathy and aeronautical engineering and Ivan, who is about to get married.

A high comedy *Art* is also a serious drama – about how people change over time.

Tickets from WG Davis, newsagent and 81 Eastgate (01446 772732) or possibly on the door each night.

YOUNG RIDERS TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT THE GLAMORGAN HUNT SHOW

THE Glamorgan Hunt Show was held on August 23 at the Top of the Tumble with the kind permission of Lt. Col. Rhodri Traherne.

There was something for everyone with showing classes for ponies and horses, and unaffiliated jumping classes from lead rein up to three feet.

Fun classes including fancy dress, pony most like its owner and the six best legs (horse and rider). The day ended with a gymkhana – lots of thrills and spills, and a good time was had by all.

There will be a fun ride on September 13 from Llandow, and the Hunter Trial at The Alps, Wenvoe on October 11.

PHOTOGRAPHS by HEATHER MARCH

YOUNG ACTRESS TAKES FIRST STEP ON THE ROAD TO RECOGNITION...

Martha (10) lands part in TV drama

A 10-year-old Aberthin girl has been chosen to take part in the new BBC Wales drama 'Crash.'.

The hospital drama is being filmed at the moment and Martha Holder has been chosen to take the part of a little girl in one of the episodes.

Martha is a pupil at the Fame Factory Theatre School in Pontyclun, which was set up in May to provide tuition in drama, singing and dancing.

The school has also started its own talent agency to get the children into shows and television.

One of the school's founders is David Rhys-Morris: "We were looking around for a place to start this school and we chose Pontyclun because there is nothing in the area for children," he said. "There are three of us – I mainly do the singing, with Sophie Lewis doing the drama and Samantha Broad teaching dance. We all work as performers as well."

The group meets each Sunday in Pontyclun Community Centre and has 70 children aged from 3 to 16 on its books.

"It has been fantastic," said Mr Rhys-Morris. "We are delighted for Martha. She got down to the last six for a part in *Les Miserables* in Cardiff but they only needed three children, so she was unlucky. But she is thrilled to get this. We are hoping to get some of our other very talented youngsters into productions as well."

Martha is the daughter of Nicola and Ian Holder of Court Close, She has a twin brother James, and a 12-year-old brother Daniel.

She attends Llansannor Church in Wales Primary School, which has a strong dramatic tradition, with plays regularly staged.

ABOVE: Martha Holder

"Daniel appeared as Macbeth in the school production of the play which was very well received, but, so far, has not pursued drama," said mum Nicola.

"Martha is the one that's really keen at the moment. She's loving it."

Mrs Holder is currently working as a learning assistant in Barry Island School while Ian is a production manager at Bosch.

...and Llewelyn (9) has a starring role

WITH the new school year just starting, young local performer Llewelyn Brown (aged 9) will have plenty to tell his school friends.

Llewelyn was cast to play the role of Young Jimmy in the summer touring production of *Quadrophenia*. The show was staged at the New Theatre, Cardiff in July.

Llewelyn attends Stagecoach Theatre Arts School in Bridgend, where he has been a student for nearly six years.

Llewelyn "really enjoyed the experience", especially the camaraderie shown by the cast members and backstage staff. He particularly liked having his own dressing room and the mod clothes.

Llantwit's plastic bag-free day

TRANSITION Llantwit invites residents to Bwyd a Byd, a celebration of both Organic Fortnight and the world's first plastic-bag-free day, on Saturday September 12, from 10am-1pm, when there will be free entry to the Llantonian Hall.

There will be organically-produced refreshments, organic foods and bodycare on sale, and a chance to win a box of local vegetable produce.

The Baguines, Llantwit's 'sociable guerrilla bag-making pod', will bring along their sewing machines and fabrics, so people can make or decorate a bag to take home, or have one made for free!

Stalls and displays will include: Vegan food information; 'Stitch and Bitch'; meditation and Indian Head massage; spinning and weaving; growing your own food, and composting information.

For more information, contact Annie Paine 01446 796849.

Results that set our young people firmly on path to success

A FORTNIGHT ago we were congratulating our young people who made great strides in their education with their excellent A/AS and Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced Diploma results, enabling them to take their next steps in their education journeys to college, university and the workplace.

Once again, the Vale results were excellent and our schools and pupils are to be commended for their hard work and achievements.

At the Vale Show, I met the Careers Wales team to discuss with them their role in advising young people on their options.

The excellent GCSE results were announced last week and as the news settles in after the Bank Holiday weekend celebrations, I urge our young people to take advantage of our Careers Wales advisers by contacting the Careers Advice Line on 0800 100 900 or *careerswales.com/your-future,* as well as discussing the way forward with their teachers on return to school, this week or on enrolment day which starts this week in Barry College.

The GCSE results mark an important milestone in education and our young people in Wales have done well across the board, but particularly well in the sciences and in the Welsh Baccalaureate Foundation (WBQ) and Intermediate Diplomas.

This is more good news for Wales as we promote the STEM subjects (science, technology, maths and engineering) so important for our economy and our public services.

This will help our young people take advantage of the apprenticeship programmes we are developing with employers and colleges in Wales.

I was privileged to meet the apprentices at BAMC (British Airways Maintenance Centre) last week who have completed their first year at Barry College's ICAT (International Centre for Aerospace Training) and are now training on the aircraft they maintain for British Airways, on a worldwide scale, at this important centre here in the Vale.

Our recently announced Pathways to Apprenticeships and the Young Recruits Programme have been set up to help young people, employers and colleges provide new and flexible opportunities particularly geared to providing support during the time we are moving out of the recession.

We have set up a new apprenticeships unit in my department to promote and coordinate these new programmes.

The key message for our young people who have achieved GCSE and Welsh Bac results is that there are many options ahead for those wanting to stay in full-time education with A-levels or a vocational qualification or a combination of both to enable them to progress.

The Welsh Baccalaureate is being rolled across Wales from September because of its success with the opportunity to combine academic study with those practical skills that employers and universities are keen to see.

Those core skills, such as being able to communicate effectively, team working, problem solving skills, the ability to study independently – are all embraced in our Welsh Baccalaureate.

It was good to have the GCSE success stories last week alongside the impressive teacher assessments of our 7, 11 and 14 year olds in Wales – the National Curriculum Assessments which showed that the percentage of pupils achieving at least the expected level, was higher than in 2008 at each Key Stage and in all subjects.

This bodes well for the future prospects of our young people at every stage of their compulsory school education and beyond.

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by Jane Hutt AM
(Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills)

I started the new school term by welcoming with the First Minister, Rhodri Morgan AM, the second year of rolling out the pioneering Foundation Phase for our youngest pupils for whom the prospect of external exams is a very long way off.

As we invest heavily in the early years in Wales, we are confident that this will make a difference to the educational prospects of every child in Wales.

I know we will see the difference as we meet that adult pupil ratio of 1:8 for the 3-5 year olds this year.

As our young people who have undertaken their GCSEs this summer consider their options, I am urging them again to stay in education and we will do our best to support them into 6th form, college, apprenticeships and work.

LLANTWIT MAJOR SURGERY

LLANTWIT First Independents will hold a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major, on Sturday, September 5, from 9.30am-11.30am. No appointments are necessary.

GREEN DRINKS

GREEN DRINKS are being held at the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge on Tuesday, September 8, at 6.30pm-9.30pm.

An open and informal monthly gathering now taking place in 460 cities worldwide, it is an opportunity to chat and share information on environmental issues. All welcome. *Visit www.greendrinks.org.*

DONKEY TREK PUTS A ROYAL AWARD IN SIGHT!

Jasper, Enoch and Polo, donkeys from the Amelia Trust Farm, recently made the journey out west to Carmarthenshire, for a Duke of Edinburgh bronze award expedition.

Unfortunately, the rain was heavy and they happily snuggled into the generously straw-filled barn, provided by a farm/campsite near Lampeter.

The Vale donkeys and young people had already completed practice walks, and the youngsters had learnt to tack up the pack saddles, map read, put up tents, cook a meal on a camp stove and gained knowledge and experience of the countryside code, first aid and how to tend to their animals along the journey.

The next day, the heavens opened and none of our three donkeys wanted to leave the comforts of the barn. So with sun predicted the following day, the young people left the donkeys safe in the barn and carried their own rucksacks on the six mile circular walk.

By the evening, the rain had eased and donkeys and young people relaxed in the field.

The third day brought lovely sunshine and the donkeys were raring to go. Packed up in their new pack saddles, Jasper and Polo easily carried rucksacks, while Enoch had throw over panniers containing lunches and first aid equipment.

ABOVE: THE DONKEYS – AND THE YOUNGSTERS, ON THEIR TREK.

What Enoch lacks in stature and strength, he gains in personality and encouragement.

Young people and donkeys made their way through some stunning forest tracks of Abergorlech. Lunch was taken by a lovely river and all three donkeys used their time off not to graze, but to try and mug everyone's packed lunch!

Nine miles later, the end was in sight.

As far as I am aware, we are the first UK DofE group to trek with donkeys.

Our donkeys work with young people as part of an animal assisted therapy programme. For a young person with difficulties in their lives, walking 15 miles may not seem a very motivating thing to do, but add into this the chance to take their new long eared friend along too and it becomes more appealing.

The focus of the journey now requires them to care for their companions before themselves.

Each young person spent six months prior to the expedition learning how to care for the donkeys and making very special friendships. The donkeys thoroughly enjoyed themselves too.

Well done to the young people completing their bronze award, and its just the first of many we hope for our very special DofE Donkeys.

Our thanks to Cowbridge Churches Together for sponsoring the purchase of the new donkey pack saddles.

REPORT by ANN SLATER

New commander at MoD training school

IT'S all change at No 4 School of Technical Training, MoD St Athan, as the unit says a fond farewell to Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Rob Woods.

Following a tour at St Athan which seems to have gone all too quickly, Wg Cdr Woods leaves to take up a post at Abbey Wood, Bristol.

His final task before departing was to hand over the 'ceremonial spanner' to the incoming Commanding Officer, Wing Commander Lyndon Jones.

Wg Cdr Rob Woods handing over to Wing Commander Lyndon Jones.

Wing Commander Jones is looking forward to taking command of the school and during his tour he will be accompanied by his wife, Diane, and their two children.

Llantwit's Daniel is a Scarlets mascot...

ON Saturday, September 5, Daniel Richards, who plays for Llantwit Major under-12s, will fulfil a dream – when he runs out onto the famous Parc y Scarlets – as the region's mascot for their first game of the season against European Champions Leinster.

Daniel says he is "really looking forward to the occasion", as are his proud family.

He is going to have plenty of support from the mini section because they are playing a half-time tag game to make the occasion a truly 'Llantwit' day.

Daniel Richards.

More joy for Cowbridge jockey Deano

ON AND OFF THE TURF with **Brian Lee**

COWBRIDGE jockey Deano Coleman was in cracking form at Cartmel last Saturday, landing a double with *Shanballa* in the Bet With Totesport Beginners Chase and *Turbo Shandy* in the Cube247.Co.Uk Novice Handicap Chase.

Shanballa, owned by Cardiff bookmaker David Lovell, and trained at Aberthin by Tim Vaughan, landed a right royal touch being backed from 6-1 to 4-1.

Running for the first time for the yard, *Shanballa* won by nine lengths from *Invisable Man* partnered by Gold Cup winning jockey Sam Thomas from Abergavenny.

Turbo Shandy, who is trained by Dai Burchell, won by three quarters of a length from *Silver Steel* to give Coleman his second double of the season. The former Welsh novice champion point-to-point rider looks destined for better things.

If you have any memories or information on former jockeys Colin Williams, Michael Stanley and former National Hunt trainer John Thomas who hailed from the Vale, I would be delighted to hear from you.

On a lighter note, Matthew Jones' So you think you know Welsh Sport? Welsh Sports Quiz book (published by Lolfa at £3.95) is a must for sports trivia quiz addicts. The book is divided into rounds or individual quizzes. The questions get harder as you go from number 1-10.There's even some horse racing questions for you to answer!

You can contact me at leebrian@internet.com or on 029 2073 6438.

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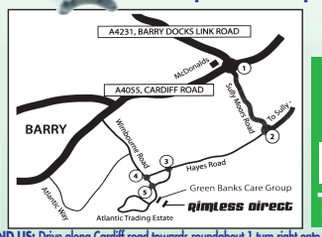

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BATTLE OF THE ATLANTIC 4:

The Merchant Navy convoys

by Dr JONATHAN HICKS

This week's article was made possible by GEM readers who contacted me with information on their relatives who took part in the Merchant Navy convoys of the Second World War.

An enormous number of vessels sailed around the coast of Britain and across the Atlantic during the Second World War in order to feed the population and to keep the war effort going.

Hundreds of local men were lost aboard these merchant ships, the victims of U-boat, fighter or surface vessel attacks. Many ships struck mines and sank, some were lost without trace, the weather being an unpredictable enemy.

Peter Bayon left school at 14 in 1941 and started work in the Royal Ordnance Factory in Llanishen. His sister had married the Chief Officer of the *SS Gripfast* and he encouraged Peter to join him in the Merchant Navy.

One Monday, Peter left work and by Wednesday, May 9, 1942 he was aboard the *Gripfast*.

He began his time in the Merchant Navy as a 15-year-old Mess Room Boy, responsible to the ship's engineers.

Peter had his own tiny cabin in the stern of the ship, so close to the ship's side that the floor was curved. He had to shut the door to get into his bed and rats ran in and out of the cabin, often stealing his socks!

On July 9, 1942, the *Gripfast* was on its way from Barry to Sheerness when it came under attack in a part of the English Channel known as 'E Boat Alley'.

Here, the German motor torpedo boats would lie in wait to pick off the merchant ships as they followed a line of dark blue buoys.

Explosions sounded across the water as ships were hit, and vivid flashes and flames soared up into the night sky.

A lifeboat was lowered to rescue men from the doomed ships. By 3am, the attack had ceased and Peter turned in for the night, sleeping in his life jacket as a precaution.

He was awoken by a loud crash and the ship shook, throwing his oil lamp to the floor. He raced to the deck. The *Gripfast* was being machine-gunned by a German aircraft that had then dropped a bomb right onto its deck.

Remembering his new-purchased jacket, he returned to his cabin to retrieve it. When he came back on deck he was amazed to find it now level with the surface of the sea.

He swam quickly away from the sinking ship. An upturned lifeboat broke the surface nearby and he scrambled on top of it before being rescued an hour or so later.

Peter returned to his mother's grocery shop with the sad news that his brother-in-law had been one of the five crewmen who had perished that night.

Denis Casey was featured in a previous article on submariners. He was recalled to the navy in November 1939 and on March 27, 1942. He was commodore of Convoy PQ13, which sailed for Murmansk in Russia with 60 ships.

A total of 78 convoys sailed to Russia between 1941 and 1945; some 1,400 merchant ships delivering vital supplies, with the loss of 85 ships under the Lend-Lease programme.

The weather on this voyage, in common with most of the Russian convoys, was appalling; a gale force wind blew sub zero temperatures, with the consequence that all the ship's superstructures started to ice up, which affected the seaworthiness of each ship.

To reach Murmansk, the convoys had to round the Norwegian coast. The Germans had built aerodromes on the northern tip from which they deployed squadrons of Junkers 87 'Stuka' dive-bombers and medium range bombers.

They 'hedgehopped' over the icebergs in order to give the British gun crews even less notice of their approach.

Just after the convoy left port, a message was received that four U-boats lay across their path. The convoy was re-routed, but this took them even closer to the German airfields.

The convoy was first attacked by three German destroyers. *HMS Trinidad* fired three torpedoes at them, but because of the extreme cold, the torpedoes misfired and the *Trinidad* ran into them, causing considerable damage.

The other British destroyers now had to refrain from any offensive action in order to protect the stricken ship.

A U-boat followed Denis Casey's ship, but having served in the submarine service throughout World War One, he realised that if he dodged in and out of the icebergs, the U-boat would not be able to submerge and thus could be kept at bay by the ship's gun.

The convoy eventually reached Murmansk with the loss of seven ships, but one German destroyer and a U-boat had also been destroyed.

Dr Hicks is currently preparing the exhibition 'Barry and the Second World War' which will open for two weeks at Arts Central in Barry Library on Saturday, September 12.

On display will be a fascinating collection of photographs, memories and artefacts showing the part that Barrians played in the Second World War.

ABOVE: Denis Casey.

ABOVE: Ice on the deck of a British ship.

RIGHT: HMS Trinidad.

ABOVE: Peter Bayon.

Ogmore surgery

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies will be holding a surgery in the Ogmore Valley on the afternoon of Wednesday, September 9, by appointment only.

For further details, call the MP's constituency office and advice centre on 01656 737777.

GEM prize takeaway

THE winner of The GEM's wordsearch competition with a prize of a takeaway meal worth £24 was Penny Fuller of Barry.

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You could also visit www.vvb.org.uk

Bro Morgannwg plans to build on 'best ever' GCSEs

A TOTAL of 78 per cent of year-11 pupils at Bro Morgannwg achieved the top A*-C grades in five or more GCSE subjects in this year's exam results published last Thursday.

The school's results have improved year on year since the school first entered pupils in 2005, with this year's fantastic results surpassing last year's record breaking 72 per cent A* to C.

Seventeen pupils achieved A* or A grades in nine or more subjects, whereas 22 of the cohort attained an impressive array of A* to B grades in 13 or 14 subjects.

The boys bucked the national trend as the higher achievers this year and among them was Gareth Davies from Dinas Powys, who attained a phenomenal A* in 13 subjects, including A* in triple science, English, Welsh and French.

As we applaud our high achievers, we are also delighted to celebrate each pupil who fulfilled their potential by achieving their target grades in this year's GCSE exams; 100 per cent of the cohort who sat their exams, achieved an A*- G grade in one or more subject.

These included the more traditional subjects, as well as vocational subjects taught in the school and in partnership with Barry College, in accordance with the current 14-19 Learning Pathways initiative.

The modern foreign languages department continues to defy the national decline in learning languages, as more than a third of the cohort studied German or French at GCSE level, achieving excellent results.

As a Welsh medium school we are committed to promoting our pupils' linguistic skills, and are delighted that 90 per cent of the pupils studying languages achieved A* to C in a modern language.

Congratulations to all Bro Morgannwg pupils and teachers for their dedication and hard work, and we look forward to welcoming many of the pupils back to year-12 to continue their studies and to build on their success.

MT

Higher achievers from year 10 have been successful in their Religious Education GCSE. They are congratulated by their teacher Miss Ruth Davies.

Scott Salter, Mathew Gregg and twins Jacob and Efan Ellis all achieved the higher grades.

Steffan Jones from Bonvilston, who achieved 11 A and 2 B. Steffan has been awarded a full time scholarship for two years to play for Cardiff City football academy. He will be studying for his A Levels in September.*

Gareth Davies from Dinas Powys (right) who achieved the highest grades of the cohort 13 A is congratulated by Ieuan Donovan from Barry who himself achieved 4 A* 9A and 1B.*

ABOVE: Lauren Brookes (4A 5 A 2 B) from Cowbridge and Nicole Petty (4 A 5 B 4C) from Barry are delighted with their results*

ABOVE: Olivia Richards from Penarth attained 6A 6A and 1 B.*

LEFT: High flyers Catrin Williams, Elinor Pugh and Eleri Roberts shared 18 A 19 A and 3B grades between them*

ABOVE: Moc Isaac from Cowbridge is congratulated by Head Dr Dylan Jones on his excellent results.

BELOW: Joe Chucas, Rhys Lennon and Anna Coleman will return to study for A-Levels at Bro Morgannwg following their good news on Thursday

ABOVE:Jonathan Viscount and Shaun White from Barry were delighted with their succes in following vocational courses such as construction and applied information technology.

EVEN LIONS TURN UP TO VALE SHOW!

GEM photographer GLYN EVANS captured all the outdoor scenes at the Vale Show – the livestock entries, the family activities, the horse riders, the dogs – and in the midst of them all he spotted some 'Lions' too! (*see right*)

List of prizewinners for home produce, floral, crafts and children's competition

Section 1 – Preserves – Jar marmalade, Mrs Ann Wallis, Cowbridge; jar strawberry jam, Cathy Thomas, Llancarfan; lemon curd, Roz Couzens, Llantwit Major; jar raspberry jam, June Studley, Llancarfan; jar blackcurrant jam, June Studley, Llancarfan; beetroot relish, Vanessa Evans, North Cornelly; jar of tomato chutney, Peta Shields, Llantwit Major.

Section 2 – Cookery – White loaf, Peta Shields, Llantwit Major; 5 bridge rolls, Ann Wallis, Cowbridge; scone base pizza, Kate Thomas, Pendoylan; 3 corned beef pasties, Vanessa Evans, North Cornelly; 5 bacon and onion scones, Eleanor McNamara, St Athan; sponge fruit flan, Mary Llewellyn, St Hilary; 5 short bread fingers, Fiona Guthrie, Llantrithyd; 5 Welsh cakes, GP Hatcher, Barry; Victoria sponge, Mary Llewellyn, St Hilary; 5 slices of paradise cake, Kate Thomas, Pendoylan; sultana fruit cake, GP Hatcher, Barry; fruit tart, Jan Rees, Pendoylan; apple cider cake, Debbie Cook, Cowbridge; 5 assorted fancies, Vanessa Evans, North Cornelly; jam Swiss roll, Jane Crowe, Cowbridge; 3 blueberry muffins (men only), Guy Ingram, Llantwit Major.

Section 3 – Flower arrangements – An arrangement of all foliage, Oenwen Jones, Coychurch; an arrangement in a basket, Barbara Gay, Aberthin; a petite arrangement, Betty Thomas, Llanbethery; an exhibit leaves and berries, Carol Brown, Wick; a miniature, Susan Thomas, Bonvilston.

Section 4 – Craft – A cushion, Mrs Barbara Hutchings, Llantwit Major; an article of canvas work, DV Wise, Penarth; a crochet shrug/bolero, Sandra Jones, Pencoed; an item of cross stitch, Mrs Barbara Hutchings, Llantwit Major; an item using recycled material, Jane Cresswell, St Athan; an item of fashion jewellery, Hilary Thomas, Porthcawl; a baby's bonnet (to be donated to local premature baby unit), Jane Cresswell, St Athan; a wedding invitation, Mrs Barbara Hutchings, Llantwit Major.

Section 5 – Art – Watercolour, Brenda Dwek, Cowbridge; oil/acrylic, Brenda Dwek, Cowbridge; drawing, Fiona Guthrie, Llantrithyd; pastels, Brenda Dwek, Cowbridge; photograph - a named historical building, Jane Cresswell, St Athan; an item of turned wood, David Jenkins, Ystradowen.

Section 6 – Children's classes – Under-7 years: a painted pebble, Samuel Saunders, Llantwit Major; a decorated face on a cardboard plate, Henri Cairns, Llampha; 5 chocolate truffles, Keira Atgeo Canter, Llansannor. Age eight-11 years: a decorated Wellington, Llewellyn Brown, Wick; handwriting - a thank you letter, Rebecca Thomas, St Hilary; 5 jam tarts, Lousha Thomas Rees, Llanbethery. Age 12-16 years: an item made from recycled material, Sky Marie Field, Rhoose; handwriting, Lauren Evans, Llancarfan; a Victoria sponge, Sky Marie Field, Rhoose.

Chairman's Cup competition – a selection of five items of cookery suitable for afternoon tea, Mary Llewellyn, St Hilary.

Bicycle theft at Mod St Athan

POLICE in St Athan are investigating the theft of a bicycle which was taken from an address in the service family accommodation at MoD St Athan some time overnight between Monday August 10 and Tuesday August 11.

The bike is a white Genesis Core 20 mountain bike.

It appears a gang of bicycle thieves may be operating in the Vale, targeting high quality bicycles.

In July, four bikes worth thousands of pounds were stolen – two in Dinas Powys, two in Penarth.

Anyone with information should contact PC Carl Parry at Llantwit Major Police Station on 101 or PC Bob Rand, MOD Police on 01446-798868.

They can also contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

DAY GROUPS

WEDNESDAY

Penarth – 9.30am
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square
Linda 01446 761150

THURSDAY

Barry – 10.15am
Castleland Community Centre
Belvedere Crescent
Niki 01446 740394

Cowbridge – 10.00am
The Duke of Wellington
High Street
Lina 01656 890708

EVENING GROUPS

MONDAY

Barry – 4.30 & 6.30pm
Brynsion Hall, Junction of Court Road and Llanover Street
Lorraine 01446 407002

Penarth – 6.30pm
Elfed Avenue Methodist Church
Elfed Road
Niki 01446 740394

Rhoose – 6.30pm
Celtic Way Community Centre
Celtic Way
Helen 01446 750738

TUESDAY

Barry – 5.45pm
Market Street Social Club
Upstairs Function Room
Joanne 01446 404897

Barry – 4.30pm
St. Davids Methodist Church Hall,
Winston Road
Anna Marie 01446 736534

Llantwit Major – 4.45 & 6.45pm
Old School,
Wine Street
Helen 01446 750738

Sully – 6.30pm
The Old School,
South Road
Niki 01446 740394

WEDNESDAY

Barry – 4.45 & 6.45pm
St.Francis
Millennium Centre
Park Road,
Porth-y-Castell
Annamarie 01446 736534

Barry – 6.00pm
Cadoxton Methodist Church
Church Road
Joanne 01446 404897

Cowbridge – 6.00pm
The Duke of Wellington
High Street
Lina 01656 890708

Penarth 5.00 & 7.00pm
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square
Linda 01446 761150

THURSDAY

Barry – 6.00pm
Highlight Park Comm. Centre, Barry
Annamarie 01446 736534

Dinas Powys – 6.30pm
The Cabin, by swimming pool
Hebron Hall
Sarah 01446 790415

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'Great staff' is the key to HQ2 The Salon's star rating

ABOVE: Assistant manager of HQ2, Jaydene Vaughan (second left), shows how natural the Balmain hair extensions look. She is pictured with the owner Dawn and the rest of the team.

HQ2 The Salon on Holton Road, Barry is Barry's only salon to be awarded a four star rating by The Good Salon Guide.

Dawn Vaughan, the owner, has managed to retain this accolade for the last five years and continues to go from strength to strength.

Dawn believes that good staff with excellent qualifications is a key point to running a successful salon.

Dawn's daughter, Jaydene, has assisted as manager of the salon in recent months, maintaining Dawn's high standards.

The quality products used in the salon include many top brands – Matrix, Tigi and Balmain hair extensions.

For a friendly salon with an excellent proven record, pop into HQ2 to book an appointment or call 01446 400102.

(They are easy to find! Just look for the silver canopy at the Cash Generator end of Holton Road, Barry.)

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THE HURT LOCKER IS A TENSE VIEWING EXPERIENCE

SCREEN TALK

by GARETH JAMIESON

THERE are very few female directors plying their trade at the top-end of cinema.

Whether it is sexual politics, or the attitude that when it comes to the big pictures men seem to dominate, landing a directing job seems to be difficult enough without being hampered by your chromosomes.

One director who has braved the 'men-only' club is Kathryn Bigelow, who, with films such as *Point Break* and *Blue Steel*, has shown that it is not just men who are capable of producing commercially successful, and at times critically acclaimed, films.

Her latest film sees her take on the Iraq conflict with *The Hurt Locker* (a term derived from a mental state of mind that a soldier doesn't want to be in), and stars Anthony Mackie and Brian Geraghty as two soldiers in a bomb disposal squad who are joined by their new sergeant Will James (Jeremy Renner) following the death of their previous sergeant.

However, James' idiosyncratic approach to the situation the three of them find themselves in doesn't sit well with the other two, and attitudes and personalities clash against the ever-present backdrop of bomb threats...

Films that have tried to deal with the events of, and the aftermath to, the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan have been given short shrift by cinematic audiences.

One possible reason for this is the fact that with 24-hour rolling news coverage, why should we go to the cinema to sit through it all over again when we could watch something that takes us away from the conflict?

Films such as *In The Valley of Elah*, *Lions For Lambs* and *Jarhead* have all failed to entice filmgoers for that very reason, yet unlike those films, *The Hurt Locker* is less a polemic on the nature of war, and more a snapshot of life in the eye of the hurricane for those that are out there.

Neither Bigelow nor screenwriter Mark Boal seem overly concerned with making artistic statements about events in the Middle East; war is bad, war is sad, war is (depending on your viewpoint) needless, yet these points are never explicitly addressed within the film, the focus being solely on those involved.

Essentially a three-hander, the performances are near faultless from all the actors. Jeremy Renner may be perhaps best known from *28 Weeks Later...*, but after this film, his profile should rocket, delivering a sensational, yet subtle turn.

Living on the edge, dangling on the precipice of life and death, the character of James knows he's in a no-win situation.

He is constantly putting his life on the line, knowing one day his luck will run out, and Renner captures beautifully the fractured personality of the character.

Addicted to the adrenaline rush that he gets from defusing bombs, he seems more and more dependent on the thrill to keep him going (exemplified in a coda that sees James with his family at home).

The performances of Brian Geraghty and Anthony Mackie sit wonderfully well alongside Renner; the former as a young soldier with a death fixation, and the latter as the measured and pragmatic soldier who bristles against James' seemingly casual attitude, with both offering strong turns that keep you invested in the characters at all times.

Throw in some cameos from established names like David Morse, Guy Pearce and Ralph Fiennes, and you have a top quality cast delivering top quality performances.

While Mark Boal's script brings you right into the story, it is Kathryn Bigelow's direction that really makes this film stand apart from others of its ilk.

Taking a first-hand approach, using hand-held cameras and plenty of close-ups, Bigelow doesn't shy away from putting you in the middle of what is going on.

Her direction is unflinching and extremely visceral, with the scenes concerning bomb diffusions dripping with tension, and the parched visuals lending a mood of underlying danger to even the simplest of tasks.

While the macho posturing that pervades her work is present here, it is tempered by the fact that what the characters have to go through means there is little chance of switching off, merely passing time to the next incident; a sobering afterthought to the more light-hearted moments.

While the film does feel a touch episodic, with little insight into the characters beyond their professional lives, at the same time Bigelow manages to eschew convention by not including those little details; rather than make another war movie, Bigelow instead aims to make a film that shows the psychological impact on those at the heart of events – and it makes for a hugely satisfying end product.

VERDICT – Tense and utterly compelling, *The Hurt Locker* gives you a first-hand view of the pressures faced by soldiers, while keeping you transfixed from start to finish. Excellent performances and Kathryn Bigelow's direction make this a film that should definitely be seen. *Highly recommended.*

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ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

Maximise your chances with Careers Wales

WITH the economic downturn, thinking about your career can be a daunting prospect – yet in these challenging times, career planning becomes more important than ever.

Whether you're in a job, facing redundancy or unemployed, careful planning will help you make the most of any opportunities that are available.

Even in a downturn, it's not all doom and gloom. New opportunities arise – but it's important to be pro-active. Put time and effort into your career planning to maximise your chances when you apply for jobs.

Careers Wales is advising anyone who might be worried abut job security to think about potential training and learning opportunities.

Take some time to update your CV; look for any gaps in your training, and think about how you can back up your work experience with qualifications.

Free impartial information and advice about careers, courses and training is available, whatever your age or situation.

You can get details about qualifications, opportunities to retrain, self employment, help with your CV, job application or interview technique.

Whatever information or advice you need, advisers are available to help you plan your next step.

They will also be able to tell you about sources of funding, including Individual Learning Accounts Wales: you may be able to claim up to £200 towards the cost of training, depending on your circumstances.

If you're under notice of redundancy, advisers can also tell you about ReAct funding which may be available to help you retrain.

Call our Learning and Careers Advice helpline on 0800 100 900 (Tel 029 2090 6801 if calling from a mobile) for further information.

Lines are open between 9am-9pm, Monday – Friday and 9am-12 noon on Saturday. Advisers can also put you in touch with your local careers centre if you wish to make an appointment.

Alternatively, visit www.careerswales.com or email lca@cardiffandvale.org.uk

With a positive and planned approach, as well as seeking support, you can help protect your future career prospects.

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Coed y Mwstwr Hotel, Bridgend
9.45am - 2pm.
Special price: £30 each
(Group or Single Bookings available)
(Group discounts)

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Llandaff Cathedral School 'delighted' at GCSE results

THE Cathedral School, Cardiff's leading co-educational independent school, is delighted at the level of success at GCSE for its year-11 pupils.

A total of 58 per cent of all grades were at the highest possible grades of A*/A, and 97 per cent of examinations were graded A* - C.

There were particularly strong performances from Alexander Harries, with 12 A* grades (he now takes up a sixth form scholarship at Eton) and Richard Freeland with 13 A* grades (he now takes up a sixth form scholarship at Winchester).

One fifth of the pupils gained exclusively A* or A grades: including head boy William Searle and head girl Rhiannon Hickinbottom.

Headmaster Stephen Morris expressed his satisfaction at these high achievements: "Cathedral School pupils have shown that gifted teaching and sustained hard work are rewarded with the top grades at GCSE. We are proud of these terrific performances in serious academic subjects."

The Cathedral School has a mixed ability intake but has been, for the last five years, one of the highest achieving schools in Wales at GCSE, with equally strong achievements for boys and girls.

The year-11 cohort consisted of 61 boys and girls from Cardiff and the surrounding area.

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Congratulations to our GCSE Candidates!

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The most common grade achieved throughout was A*

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◊ Come and meet Staff and Pupils ◊

All Welcome – Please phone Pam Critcher on 029 2083 8504 for more details

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woodard schools

Refresh your skills with Pitman Training course

BEING made redundant is never pleasant, but after more than 15 years with the same company, redundancy was particularly hard for Jane.

Like many people, Jane's redundancy wasn't a surprise but, nevertheless, it was a major knock to her confidence.

Careers Wales gave Jane a grant towards retraining to help her move forward in her career.

"I was keen to get back into employment as soon as possible and so my training needed to fit in with work commitments and my personal life," Jane explained.

"When I went into Pitman Training, I immediately knew it was the right place for me."

Pitman Training in Cardiff is run by Leanne Waring. "Our method of learning is completely flexible and we aim to create a relaxed and unthreatening training environment," explained Leanne.

Jane is now working as a medical secretary in Cardiff.

"Deciding to learn with Pitman Training was such a good decision – I feel like I can really progress now because I have the right skills," she commented.

For information on the range of courses on offer at Pitman Training in Cardiff, please call 029 2034 2020 or visit www.pitmancardiff.com

C & G Morgan & Son wins Great Taste Awards

C & G Morgan & Son from Blackmill, Bridgend, is celebrating after winning a prestigious UK Great Taste Award.

The company has been presented with a coveted three star Gold Great Taste Award for its rib of beef, together with a one star Gold Great Taste Award for its sirloin steak.

It is the second year in succession that Charles, Gill and their son Richard, have won a Great Taste Award.

C & G Morgan & Son is a ninth generation farming family business which runs a typical Welsh hill farm known as Gellifeddgaer on the outskirts of Bridgend.

It rears quality lamb, beef and pork, selling produce from its farm gate as well as at the Bridgend and Caerphilly Farmers' Markets.

The family began selling direct 10 years ago with the formation of the Bridgend Farmers' Market and have been actively involved with the organisation throughout this time, regularly attending the monthly markets held at Porthcawl.

The market celebrates its 10th anniversary this month and the Morgan family will be supporting the event with their produce.

C&G MORGAN & SON
Great Taste GOLD Winners....
3 Gold Star for Rib of Beef
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Our own reared lamb, beef and pork, available direct from the farm gate, or at the monthly local Farmers' Markets.
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UNIVERSITY CENTRE'S SEPTEMBER OPEN DAYS

CARDIFF University's Centre for Lifelong Learning will be holding two open days in September.

Come along and enrol on a part-time course or discuss your options with a co-ordinating lecturer or tutor.

Courses are open to all adults and are offered in a range of subjects.

There will be free taster sessions and European language film screenings at these events.

The times are: Tuesday, September 8, 12noon-2pm and 5pm-7pm; Saturday, September 12, 11am-1pm.

On Tuesday, September 8 at 1.15pm, there will be a Chinese culture taster, which will run for approximately 40 minutes.

If you are interested in China, its geographical features and culture, come along to this free taster session. This session will be repeated on Saturday, September 12 at 11.15am.

There will also be a Mandarin Chinese taster on Tuesday, September 8 at 6pm. Learn some basic Chinese words in this short and friendly session run by the centre's Confucius Institute.

This session is free and will be repeated on Saturday, September 12 at 12.15pm. There will also be a selection of film screenings in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

Please visit *www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn* for more details nearer the open days.

Cardiff Centre of Lifelong Learning, Senghennydd Road, Cardiff, CF24 4AG; telephone 029 2087 0000; www.cardiff.ac.uk/learn

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

In Business Update

'Revitalise' with top (free) advice

WHETHER you're an experienced business person or just starting out on your first venture, Revitalise Your Business is the business skills event you must attend.

Revitalise Your Business aims to provide business people with practical, realistic and effective skills that they can immediately use to improve the performance of their business.

Featuring expert business speakers supported by a host of business services companies exhibiting, this is an event not to miss.

Expert speakers include: Alistair Milburn, managing director of the leading PR Agency Effective Communication, Nirmal Chhabria, the award winning chief exectuive of leading waste metal exporter Niva International, and the number one UK entrepreneurship guru Robert Craven, who will present his very successful no-nonsense jargon-free seminar '10 things to do in the next 10 days to improve your business'.

Revitalise Your Business is a free seminar, workshop, exhibition and networking event, hosted by the Vale Council in association with the Vale Business Club, on September 22, at the Memorial Hall, Barry.

Call 01446 724330 for details or visit www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ryb or www.valebusinessclub.co.uk

Vale Women's Business Network
September Event
Meet World Wide Women In Business!
Wed 16th September 2009
at Trio Brasserie, Cowbridge
6.30 - 9pm
Guests and non-members are most welcome!
(Guest membership for the event is £6)
Please E-Mail events@vwbn.org.uk to book or visit **www.vwbn.org.uk**

The VWBN goes global!

THE theme of our September 16 event is 'world-wide women in business'.

At this event, businesswomen from China, France and Lithuania will be joining the VWBN and guests at Trio Brasserie in Cowbridge.

It is a fantastic chance to hear what it is really like to conduct a business world wide!

Non-members are most welcome. Guest membership for the evening is £6. Please contact us to book!

The VWBN is an informal and friendly networking forum for women who live or work in the Vale.

A quote from one of our recent events: "*I am in the very early stages of starting my own business, and see this network as a welcome opportunity to seek inspiration – as well as share ideas with other successful women in business!*

"This network was recommended through a friend as being very enjoyable, as well as fruitful."

For more information, contact ***members@vwbn.org.uk***

Employment law advice, when you need it most

AS we face the toughest economic environment for over a decade, it is more important than ever that your interests in the workplace are protected.

Redundancy is now an everyday reality and it has major consequences for employees and their families.

RTL Solicitors offers a comprehensive employment law service and will be able to provide you with the appropriate advice, on this and all other employment law matters.

For further information, contact Peter Marshall at RTL Solicitors, telephone 01656 665850; or e-mail: peterm@rtllegal.co.uk

It's Enrolment Time!

Start a course this September

Come along to one of the sessions below all held at Barry College, Colcot Road and find out how you can make it happen.

Information & Enrolment Sessions

Thursday 3rd September 12.00noon-7.00pm
Friday 4th September 10.00am-1.00pm
Monday 7th September 4.00pm-7.00pm

HE Information & Enrolment Evening

Get a university qualification at college!
Tuesday 8th September 4.00pm-7.00pm

At these sessions you can talk to course tutors and careers advisors to help choose the right course for you. You may also be able to sign up to a course on the same day. Hurry – all courses are filled on a first come, first served basis.

Before coming to one of the sessions, go to the website www.barry.ac.uk and click on 'Enrolment 2009 – Important information' to find out more, including what you will need to bring with you. Alternatively, contact us on Tel: 01446 725007.

BARRY
BARRY COLLEGE COLEGY BARRI

VALE SHOW RESULTS ROUND-UP

MOUNTAIN AND MOORLAND PONIES

CLASS 72.– Mountain & Moorland Leading Rein. Mountain & Moorland pony, mare or gelding, 4 years old and over not exceeding 122cm, registered in their respective Pure Breed Society Stud Books of Shetland, Dartmoor, Exmoor, New Forest and Welsh A or B.

Riders not to have attained their 9th birthday before 1st January in the current year. To be led by an attendant and shown in a snaffle bridle, the lead rein to be attached by the noseband only. This class is a qualifier for the Ponies Association (UK) Colne Mountain & Moorlands Leading Rein Championship.

(Kindly sponsored by Beech & Co. Lawyers, The Business Centre, Town Hall Square, Cowbridge Tel: 08707 569952)

1st, Pat Faulkner, Bridge Farm, Crucorney, Abergavenny; 2nd, Tracy Roynon, Ty Richard Jones Farm, Hafodyrynys; 3rd, Miss J Wren, Graigwen, Planycoed Road, Pontnewynydd.

M. T. MORGAN CUP PRESENTED TO THE WINNER OF CLASS 72.

Pat Faulkner, Bridge Farm, Crucorney, Abergavenny.

CLASS 7– Best Registered Ridden Mountain & Moorland Pony under saddle, 4 years old and over. Small Breeds - Dartmoor, Exmoor, Shetland, Section A & B. Small rider any age.

1st, Ann Rees, The Nurseries, Trehyngyll, Cowbridge; 2nd, Pat Faulkner, Bridge Farm, Crucorney, Abergavenny; 3rd, Miss V Legge, Llangunnock House, Hereford; 4th, Miss J Wren, Graigwen, Planycoed Road, Pontnewynydd; 5th, S Beach, Nantlais, Llanharan, Pontyclun; 6th, K Davies, Bryneglwys Gardens, Newton.

CLASS 74 – Best Registered Ridden Mountain & Moorland Pony under saddle, 4 years old and over. Large Breeds - Section C&D, Dales, Fells, Conemara, New Forest and Highland. Rider any age.

1st, Jessica Allen, Rudry Park House, Rudry; 2nd, Pat Faulkner, Bridge Farm, Crucorney, Abergavenny; 3rd, S Beach, Nantlais, Llanharan, Pontyclun.

Classes 73 & 74 are qualifiers for the P(UK) Llanarth Mountain & Moorland Championship.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Mountain And Moorland Championship Open To 1st And 2nd Prizewinners In Classes 73 And 74.

THE J. PENDOCK PORTER PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP FOR THE WINNER OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Jessica Allen, Rudry Park House, Rudry.

CLASS 75 – Mixed Height Registered Mountain & Moorland Working Hunter Pony, 4 years old and over. Riders must jump in their correct height section.

- *Not exceeding 122cms*
- *Exceeding 122cms but not exceeding 138cms*
- *Exceeding 138cms*

Fences to be adjusted for each section

1st, Pat Faulkner, Bridge Farm, Crucorney, Abergavenny; 2nd, RP & K Granville, Gelli Farm, Cefn Cribbwr; 3rd, S Beach, Nantlais, Llanharan, Pontyclun.

P(UK) HORSELODE M&M WORKING HUNTER PONY COLOURED CLASSES

These classes are affiliated to the British Skewbald and Piebald Association and are qualifiers for the World Championships of Colour National Championship Show 2009. All classes will be judged within the rules and criteria of the BSPA (details from BSPA 01354 638226 or downloaded from www.bspaonline.com). All stallions 4 years and over must be graded, licensed and registered with BSPA in order to compete. All classs are open to members and non-members but in order to qualify all owners/handlers/riders must be members of the BSPA and all horses/ponies registered with BSPA prior to the Show. BSPA qualification cards must be produced in the ring and be signed by the judge, otherwise the qualification is invalid. In all WCC Ridden Horse Classes the judge may ride and/or request a display qualification 1-3 in all classes or 1-4 for classes exceeding 12.

CLASS 76 – In Hand. Skewbald/Piebald young stock foaled 04.05.07 - foals over 4 weeks old.

Any sex, colour or type - Championship Qualifier

(Kindly sponsored by Catherine Summerhayes - Amethyst Healthcare Ltd.

Contact: 08452 600919).

1st, Mr & Mrs M Price, Seagulls, St Brides Wentloog; 2nd, Vanella Clode Roberts, Cartref, Penycoedcae; 3rd, R Gladman, Bryn Pinwydderi, Pentwyn, Cardiff; 4th, Cherida Griffiths, Fields Park Road, Pontcanna.

SUMMERHAZE CUP FOR THE WINNER OF CLASS 75.

CLASS 77 – In Hand. Skewbald/Piebald combined class - Championship Qualifier.

Horses and ponies any age, sex, colour or type. Additional qualifier for Best Pony and Best Horse not in 1st-3rd and highest place Youngstock and highest place traditional, cob or vanner.

(Kindly sponsored by M & S. Cuddy).

1st, Mr & Mrs M Price, Seagulls, St Brides Wentloog; 2nd, Rhian Carter, Greenlands Road, Llantrisant; 3rd, Mrs T Pesci Griffiths, Sunnybank Eq Centre.

CLASS 78 – Ridden. Skewbald/Piebald combined class - Championship Qualifier.

Horses and ponies any sex, colour or type four years old and over. Additional qualifier for Best Pony and Best Horse not in 1st-3rd.

(Kindly sponsored by M&S Cuddy).

1st, E Roderick, Ty Uchaf Farm, Rhiwseason; 2nd, Kate Johnson, Station Terrace, Ebbw Vale; 3rd, Kim Davies, Greendown, Bonvilston; 4th, K Chappell, Newcastle Hill, Bridgend.

Classes 76 - 78 qualify for the P(UK) 'Apache' ridden and in-hand Piebald/Skewbald Horse/Pony Championships.

Qualifier for the BSPA World Championship of Colour 2009, held at Addington Manor, Bucks. on 29/30 August.

CHAMPIONSHIP

Open to first and second prizewinners in classes 76, 77 & 78.

CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY PRESENTED BY M & S CUDDY.

Champion: Mr & Mrs M Price, Seagulls, St Brides Wentloog (678); Reserve: E Roderick, Ty Uchaf Farm, Rhiwsaeson (702).

WELSH MOUNTAIN PONIES

This Show will be participating in the Welsh Pony & Cob Society Sire Ratings Scheme. Any colt or stallion 3 years old or over must be bitted.

CLASS 79 – Welsh Mountain Pony Yearling.

1st, R Donati & B Hooper, Milwas House, Groesfaen; 2nd, Dr Wynne & David Davies, Caulan, Miskin; 3rd, L Perrot, Ty Golau Farm, St Brides Wentloog.

CLASS 80 – Welsh Mountain Pony, 2 or 3 years old.

1st, Dr Wynne & David Davies, Caulan, Miskin; 2nd, M & S Evans, Tyla Morris Farm, Pentyrch; 3rd, S Anderson, c/o Popsters, Wellington Farm, Littledean.

CLASS 81 – Novice Welsh Mountain Pony Brood Mare 4 years old or over that has never won a First Prize in a Brood Mare Class.

1st, K & J Sheil, Ty Isaf, Llangynog, Builth Wells; 2nd, Mr & Mrs J Cooke, Stormydown Stud, nr Cornelly; 3rd, M & S Evans, Tyla Morris Farm, Pentrych.

CLASS 82 – Welsh Mountain Pony, Mare or Gelding, 4 years old or over.

1st, Mr & Mrs J Cooke, Stormydown Stud, nr Cornelly; 2nd, Ms Anne Edwards, The Old House, Rhiwceiliog; 3rd, Mrs C Langford, Talygarn Drive, Pontyclun.

CLASS 83 – Welsh Mountain Pony Foal.

1st, M & S Evans, Tyla Morris Farm, Pentrych.

THE BRYNHEULOG PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP. GIVEN BY THE LATE MRS. MATTHEW WILLIAMS FOR THE BEST WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY MARE.

K & J Sheil, Ty Isaf, Llangynog, Builth Wells (721).

THE WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY MEDAL TO THE CHAMPION AND RESERVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WPCS RULES AND THE "PENLLYN" CHALLENGE TROPHY FOR THE BEST ANIMAL IN SECTION 'A' CLASSES. THE LYNDON EVANS MEMORIAL TROPHY FOR THE BEST WELSH MOUNTAIN PONY 3 YEARS OLD OR YOUNGER.

R Donati & B Hooper, Milwas House, Groesfaen (706).

WELSH PONIES

Section 'B' – not over 137.2cms

CLASS 85 – Welsh Pony Yearling.

1st, EG Prosser, 3 Ffordd Dinas, Cwmavon; 2nd, Miss LJ Evans, Sker Walk, Nottage, Porthcawl; 3rd, June Marsh, Woodland Road, Beddau.

CLASS 86 – Welsh Pony, 2 or 3 years old.

1st, Mr & Mrs G Thomas, Llanrumney Avenue, Cardiff; 2nd, Mrs PA Davies & Family, Maybrock Stud, Llandeilo.

CLASS 87 – Welsh Pony, Mare or Gelding 4 years old or over.

1st, F Leadbitter, Coach House, Ystradowen; 2nd, Mr & Mrs D Williams, Phyllis Avenue, Bridgend; 3rd, Landon Family, Linksbury, Kidwelly.

CLASS 88 – Welsh Pony Foal.

1st, Mrs PA Davies & Family, Maybrock Stud, Llandeilo; 2nd, Mrs C Langford, Talygarn Drive, Pontyclun.

CLASS 89 – Welsh Pony Stallion, 4 years old or over.

1st, June Marsh, Woodland Road, Beddau; 2nd, A Paddock & L Motton, Brynley Stud, Wenvoe.

THE WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY MEDAL TO THE CHAMPION AND RESERVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WPCS RULES AND "THE THORNBERRY" CHALLENGE TROPHY. FOR THE BEST ANIMAL IN THE SECTION B CLASSES.

Champion: EG Prosser, 3 Ffordd Dinas, Cwmavon (740); Reserve: F Leadbitter, Coach House, Ystradowen (754).

WELSH PONIES COB TYPE

Section 'C' – not over 137.2cms

CLASS 90 – Mare or gelding, 4 years old or over.

(Kindly sponsored by Ogmore Vale Bakery).

1st, RJ Davies, Garreg Bica Farm, Ebbw Vale; 2nd, G Moffatt, c/o Mafeking Terrace, Tredegar; 3rd, G Huws John, Bryngwyn, Bryn Road, Ponllanfraith.

CLASS 91 – Foal.

1st, G Moffatt, c/o Mafeking Terrace, Tredegar; 2nd, G Huws John, Bryngwyn, Bryn Road, Ponllanfraith; 3rd, Sian Locke, Heol Y Bryn, Pontyclun.

CLASS 92 – Yearling.

1st, JK Walters, Mafeking Terrace, Tredegar; 2nd, RJ Davies, Garreg Bica Farm, Ebbw Vale; 3rd, S Anderson, c/o Popsters, Wellington Farm, Littledean.

CLASS 93 – Welsh Pony of Cob Type, 2 or 3 years old.

1st, Gill Kelley, Knapp Ropad, Thornbury, Bristol.

CLASS 94 – Stallion, 4 years old or over

1st, J Kirk, Penmyarth, Newry Road, Builth Wells; 2nd, Len & Sue Palmer, Clapham Terrace, Blaenavon.

THE WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY MEDAL TO THE CHAMPION AND RESERVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WPCS RULES AND THE LOUIS FISHER PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP FOR THE BEST ANIMAL IN THE SECTION C CLASSES.

Champion: J Kirk, Penmyarth, Newry Road, Builth Wells (787); Reserve: Gill Kelley, Knapp Road, Thornbury, Bristol (783).

WELSH COBS

Section 'D'

CLASS 95 – Welsh Cob Yearling.

1st, D Bentley, Bedw Gwynion, Caio, Llamwrda, Carms; 2nd, Bethanne Binding, Edgehill, Barry.

CLASS 96 – Welsh Cob, 2 or 3 years old.

1st, RJ Davies, Garreg Bica Farm, Ebbw Vale; 2nd, N Powell, Twyn Carmel, Merthyr Tydfil; 3rd, P Duning, c/o Mafeking Terrace, Tredegar.

CLASS 97 – Welsh Cob, Mare or Gelding 4 years old or over.

1st, G Williams, Valio Stud, Pentwyn, Ebbw Vale; 2nd, Chriss Best, Cwlwm Cariad, Barry; 3rd, G Price, Winchfawr, Heolgerrig.

CLASS 98 – Welsh Cob Foal.

1st, G Williams, Valio Stud, Pentwyn, Ebbw Vale; 2nd, AE Green, The Candle, Ewenny Road, Wick.

CLASS 99 – Welsh Cob Stallion, 4 years old or over.

1st, J Bugler & J Claes, Ynysmaerdy Farm, Llantrisant; 2nd, Andrew Denney, Esgair Fach, Llandeilo.

THE WELSH PONY & COB SOCIETY MEDAL TO THE CHAMPION AND RESERVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE WPCS RULES AND THE PARKHOUSE PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP FOR THE BEST ANIMAL IN SECTION 'D' CLASSES.

Champion: J Bugler & J Claes, Ynysmaerdy Farm, Llantrisant (809); Reserve: RJ Davies, Garreg Bica Farm, Ebbw Vale (796).

SUPREME CHAMPIONSHIP THE MRS. HOMFRAY CHALLENGE CUP WILL BE AWARDED FOR THE BEST EXHIBIT IN SECTIONS A, B, C & D.

CHAMPION: EG Prosser, 3 Ffordd Dinas, Cwmavon (740); Reserve: J Kirk, Penmyarth, Newry Road, Builth Wells (787).

FIELD CLASSES

CLASS 100 – For the Best Clamp of Silage.

(Kindly sponsored by Alban Wilde, Stembridge Court, Llandow, Nr. Cowbridge).

1st, HD Hanks & Sons; 2nd, Gareth Rees; 3rd, EH Radcliffe & Son; 4th, TW Jarvis & Son.

THE MAJOR FRANK HOMFRAY PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP.

CLASS 101 – For the Best Bag of Silage.

(Kindly sponsored by R. & L. Anthony, Tythegston).

1st, R & L Anthony; 2nd, VJ Thomas & Son; 3rd, D Anthony & Son; 4th, RS Thomas & Son.

LEY CLASSES

CLASS 102 – Long Term Ley - 3 or more seasons.

THE GEORGE GIBSON PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP FOR THE BEST LONG TERM LEY.

1st, Gareth Rees; 2nd, David Adams; 3rd, VJ Thomas & Son; 4th, E Williams & Son.

CLASS 103 – Short Term Ley - 1 or 2 seasons (to include Italian Rye Grass).

RS Thomas & Son; 2nd, G Anthony & Son; 3rd, VJ Price & Son; 4th, TD Llewellyn & Son.

THE PENLLYNE CRICKET CLUB PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP FOR THE BEST SHORT TERM LEY.

COMBINABLE CROP CLASSES

Growing Crop Classes are exempt from standard rules and regulations of entries.

(Not more than one exhibit of any variety to be shown from the same field - not less than 3 acres).

CLASS 104 – Best Field of Winter Barley.

(Kindly sponsored by C. H. Knight & Ptns).

EH Radcliffe & Son; 2nd, EH Radcliffe & Son; 3rd, RJ Thomas & Son; 4th, Lyndon Joseph.

THE EVAN CROOK MEMORIAL CUP.

CLASS 105 – Best Field of Winter Oats.

(Kindly sponsored by Western Arable Services, The Cattle Market Ltd, Glos.)

1st, RJ Thomas & Son; 2nd, EH Radcliffe & Son; 3rd, AR & HC Thomas; 4th, W James & Son.

CLASS 106 – Best Field of Winter Wheat.

(Kindly sponsored by Julian Kelly and David Harris NFU Office, Cowbridge).

1st, EH Radcliffe & Son; 2nd, R & L Anthony & Son; 3rd, EH Radcliffe & Son; 4th, VJ Thomas & Son.

THE W. D. JAMES MEMORIAL PERPETUAL CHALLENGE TROPHY.

CLASS 107 – Best Field of Spring Barley.

1st, PC Thomas & Son; 2nd, AR & HC Thomas; 3rd, TW Jarvis & Son; 4th, RJ Thomas & Son.

CLASS 108 – The Best Winter Oilseed Crop

(Kindly sponsored by Masstock Arable (UK) Ltd).

1st, RJ Thomas & Son; 2nd, EH Radcliffe & Son; 3rd, VJ Thomas & Son; 4th, R & L Anthony.

CLASS 109 – Best Field of Beans

1st, R & L Anthony; 2nd, EH Radcliffe & Son; 3rd, AR & HC Thomas; 4th, VJ Thomas & Son.

THE ROBERT THOMAS MEMORIAL PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP.

Winner: EH Radcliffe & Son, Penmark Place, Penmark; Reserve: RJ Thomas & Son, Gileston Farm, St Athan.

MAIZE CLASSES

CLASS 110 – Best Field of Maize – Judging September 2008. Results in 2009 Catalogue.

The A. R. Thomas Perpetual Challenge Cup for the Best Maize Crop.

(Kindly sponsored by Masstock Arable (UK) Ltd).

1st, VJ Thomas & Son; 2nd, G Anthony & Son; 3rd, E Williams & Sons; 4th, R & L Anthony.

CLASS 111 – Best Clamp of Maize Silage

(Kindly sponsored by Julian Kelly and David Harris NFU Office, Cowbridge).

1st, E Williams & Sons; 2nd, EH Radcliffe & Son; 3rd=G Anthony & Son, VJ Thomas & Son.

GROWING ROOT CROP CLASSES

CLASS 112 – One Acre of Potatoes.

1st, TW Jarvis & Son; 2nd, JE Rosser & Son; 3rd, Robert Thomas.

LLANCARFAN PLOUGHING MATCH SOCIETY PERPETUAL CHALLENGE CUP.

To be awarded to the Competitor winning the

CLASS 113 – Bale of Seed Hay.

CLASS 114 – Bale of Meadow Hay.

CLASS 115 – Group of 10 Potatoes.

CLASS 116 – 10 kilos Wheat

CLASS 117 – 10 kilos Oats

CLASS 118 – 10 kilos Barley

WOODLAND CLASSES

CLASS 119 – Best managed native timber stand on sustainable, continuous cover principles.

1st, Coed Hills, St Hilary, owned by Mr Bill Clay; 2nd, Coed Twm Luw, Dinas Powys, owned by Mr Robert Harry; 3rd, Coed Arthur, St Hilary, owned by Mr Julian Hinam.

CLASS 120 – Best managed woodland to develop/conserve biodiversity and landscape features.

1st, Coed y Ddydduan, Michaelstone-le-Pit, owned by Mr Michael Lewis; 2nd, Coed Twm Luw, Dinas Powys, owned by Mr Robert Harry; 3rd, Crofta Farm Woodland, Ystradowen, owned by Mr Mervyn Lewis.

CLASS 121 – Best project to encourage public access, recreation and interpretation of woodlands.

1st, Cwm Talwg, Barry, managed by Cwm Talwg Woodland Residents Group; 2nd, Coed Hills, St Hilary, owned by Mr Bill Clay; 3rd, Birchgrove, Barry, managed by Birchgrove Woodland Group.

CLASS 122 – Best added value use of locally grown native hardwood timber.

1st, County Rimber, Mr P Fairclough, Cowbridge.

OVERALL WINNER – Coed Hills, St Hilary, owned by Mr Bill Clay.

BIODIVERSITY CLASSES

Awards for Wildlife

Confined to sites within the Vale of Glamorgan

Class 1: Projects by schools, colleges or other education centres

1st, St Joseph's RC Primary; 2nd, St Brides C/W Primary; 3rd, St Illtyds Primary; Highly commended: Barry Island Primary, Cadoxton Nursery, Bute Cottage Nursery, Wick and Marcross C/W Primary; Commended: Ysgol St Curig; Gewfo C/W Primary, Cogan Primary; Ysgol Iolo Morganwg.

Class 2: Projects by voluntary groups or industrial or commercial business, including farms.

1st, Lavernock Nature Reserve, Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales; 2nd, NHS Conservation Volunteers (Cosmeston); 3rd, Wenvoe Wildlife Group, Wenvoe Orchid Fields; Highly commended: Birchgrove Wood Conservation Group; Commended: Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery, Barry Town Council.

TRADE STANDS

Agricultural: 1st, Frank Sutton; 2nd, David Evans; 3rd, Ted Hopkins.

Commercial: 1st, Ashdown; 2nd, Jack Straw

Countryside; 3rd, Leamons.

Craft: 1st, Paul Naylor (woodturner); 2nd, Sue Pickard (knitted jackets); 3rd, Bernard Dite (woodturner).

THE BARRY WATERFRONT TALL SHIPS FESTIVAL 2009

Saturday 5th & Sunday 6th September 2009

A weekend of family fun including:

- The Tall Ship 'Stavros S Niarchos'
  Open to the public Saturday and Sunday from 10am - 5pm.
- Replica Ship 'The Matthew'
  Open to the public Saturday and Sunday.
- Royal Navy Minehunter 'HMS Blyth'
  Open to the public Saturday from 2pm - 5pm and Sunday 10am - 5pm.
- Steam Locomotive Cab Rides
- Craft and Maritime Stalls on the Dock
- Street Entertainers
- Fairground Rides
- Bar and food outlets

FREE LIVE MUSIC STAGE!

SATURDAY LINE-UP

The Alarm	8:00pm
The Automatic	6:30pm
The Relics	5:00pm
Roctopus	4:15pm
Shooting the Moon	3:15pm
The Amber Hour	2:30pm
Code One	1:15pm

SUNDAY LINE-UP

Big Mac's Wholly Soul Band	6:00pm
Leighton Jones Band	5:00pm
Purple Hearts	4:00pm
Vertigo Flo	3:00pm
Rockin 88	2:00pm

Timings subject to change. Please note that NO ALCOHOL or DOGS are allowed onto the Live Music Stage site.

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How World's Biggest Coffee Morning makes real difference to people's lives

MAKE a date in your diary for September 25 – it's one of Britain's great charity days, Macmillan Cancer Supports 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'.

The idea behind the event is for people, whether at home, in the office, or at an organisation they are a member of, to invite friends or colleagues to share coffee and cake!

The money raised from thousands of events across the country has an positive impact on the lives of people coping with cancer.

So what does the money go to?

● £22 will fund a Macmillan family support worker for an hour, helping families who have been affected by a cancer diagnosis receive the support they need.

● £40 will help a cancer support group hold their first meeting.

● £156 will run the cancerline for an hour, providing people affected by cancer with essential information, practical and emotional support.

● £278 will keep a Macmillan cancer information and support centre stocked for a month with all the information resources it needs – leaflets, guides, and directories.

● £544 will help to run a typical, large Macmillan information and support centre.

● £918 will pay for a Macmillan nurse for a working week, providing expert information, advice and support to improve the lives of people with cancer.

So your coffee morning could make the difference to someone suffering the greatest trauma in their life!

Julie Lewis, a Macmillan nurse, said: "The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is a fantastic event to get involved with; while it is easy and fun, it raises a huge amount of money to be able to fund Macmillan nurses such as myself to continue helping people affected by cancer."

Following her own personal experience, Kathryn Carr is now a volunteer with Macmillan.

She explained: "The help of Macmillan was invaluable to me throughout my cancer experience.

"Julie was my Macmillan nurse and was like a friend, as well as a fountain of knowledge for me.

"I'll be encouraging all my friends and family to get involved with the World's Biggest Coffee Morning to help Macmillan to continue providing the fantastic support that they do".

Register now at macmillan.org.uk/coffee or call 0845 602 1246.

Two recipes for the Macmillan's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'

MINI CARROT CAKES

Always a favourite, carrot cake is easy to make and these will disappear in no time, so it's worth making lots of them!

Makes: 24 cakes
Ready in: 45 minutes
15p per bun
Ingredients:
Cake
175g (6fl oz) Somerfield sunflower oil
175g (6oz) light muscovado sugar
3 eggs, beaten
175g (6oz) grated carrots (2 medium)
100g (31/2 oz) Somerfield sultanas
40g (11/2oz) walnut pieces
finely grated rind of 1 orange
175g (6oz) self-raising flour
5ml (1tsp) bicarbonate of soda
5ml (1tsp) ground allspice
TOPPING:
200g (7oz) soft cheese
55g (2oz) icing sugar
15ml (1tbsp) orange juice
85g (3oz) marzipan
Red, yellow and green food colourings
METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 180°C, 350°F, gas mark 4. Arrange 24 bun cases in patty tins.

Beat together the oil, sugar and eggs. Stir in the grated carrots, sultanas, orange zest and walnuts.

Sift the flour, bicarbonate of soda and allspice and stir evenly into the carrot mixture.

Spoon into the bun cases and bake for 20–25 minutes, or until golden brown and firm to the touch. Cool on a wire rack.

For the topping, beat together the soft cheese, icing sugar and orange juice until smooth. Spoon a little onto each buns and peak up with a fork.

Colour the marzipan with food colourings and shape into small carrots to decorate the buns.

STICKY GINGER CAKE

This irresistible ginger cake takes just minutes to prepare – just melt and mix, then it's ready to bake. What's more, you can make it in advance and it will become more moist and delicious after a day or two.

Makes: 9 squares
Ready in: 1 hour
22p per serving
INGREDIENTS:
175g (6oz) Somerfield ready to eat prunes, chopped
250ml (9fl oz) hot water
2.5ml (1/2tsp) bicarbonate of soda
115g (4oz) unsalted butter
115g (4oz) dark muscovado sugar
115g (4oz) golden syrup
250g (9oz) Somerfield self-raising flour
15ml (1tbsp) ground ginger
2 large eggs, beaten
30ml (2tbsp) maple syrup
METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 180°C, 350°F, gas mark 4. Grease and base-line a 23cm (9in) square, deep cake tin.

Place the prunes, bicarbonate of soda and water in a medium pan and heat until boiling. Remove from the heat and add the butter and sugar, stirring until melted.

Add the eggs, flour and ginger to the mixture and beat thoroughly to mix evenly.

Pour the batter into the tin and bake for 35–40 minutes, or until risen and firm to the touch.

Cool in the tin for 10 minutes, then turn out and finish cooling on a wire rack. Brush with maple syrup and cut into squares.

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Last ball wins it in Barry under-9s cricket tournament

ON August 9, Barry Athletic under-9s hosted a friendly tournament at the Island Oval – the three sides involved were Cardiff, Penarth and Barry in the six-a-side round robin.

The game of the day had to be league leaders Cardiff versus hosts Barry.

Although nominally earmarked as a friendly fixture, it didn't make much difference with regard to the commitment shown by all players on both sides.

The game was dominated early on by some fine Cardiff bowling, but openers Calvin and Reuben Fahiya showed some great determination to keep their wickets intact.

The game looked to be out of Barry's grasp with one over to go. After five balls of the over, the scores were tied.

The Cardiff batsman could have blocked out and taken the draw, but instead they went to win the game.

A short ball by Joel Merrick took the batsman by surprise and a hook shot went up in the air.

The catch was taken by the ever reliable Calvin Fahiya, to give Barry an amazing victory.

With three wickets in the last over, Joel Merrick was named man-of-the-match.

There were wickets for Lawrence and Saul in the other matches, and good all round fielding by Evan Wells.

Barry's only defeat came at the hands of the Select 6 side, which did include three good Barry players.

Sam Hopkins excelled in all areas of the game, hitting a couple of boundaries, two good catches, a wicket and also bowling.

DW

The Stags close out the season with the sad taste of defeat

NATHAN BAKER'S Barry Athletic 1st XI played host to league newcomers, Cardiff Gymkhana CC, in the final weekend of the 2009 season – Cardiff Gymkhana won the toss and chose to bat first.

Barry began brightly as opening bowlers, Steve Jones and Jake Griffet, put the visitors on the back foot with some very tight overs, restricting them to only 70-3 from their opening 20 overs, as two catches were taken from the bowling of Steve Jones and captain, Nathan Baker.

Excellent fielding in the final 10 overs, together with some tight bowling from Steve Jones (14-1-65-3), Billy Usswald (13-0-45-2) and Nathan Baker (13-1-37-2) had restricted the visitors to 197-8 from their 50 overs.

The opening batsmen walked out into the middle for the Stags, but unfortunately, three wickets fell in the first five overs to restrict them to only 19-3.

Wickets kept falling at regular intervals and batting performances from Damon Leake (40), Billy Usswald (26) and Nathan Baker (24) weren't enough to bring victory to The Stags as they were dismissed for 161.

2ND XI CRASH TO DEFEAT

Martin Baker's Barry Athletic 2nd XI travelled to league leaders, Penarth CC, in which a win for the home side will see them crowned champions of Division One.

Penarth won the toss and elected to bowl first, but The Stags were heavily boosted by the return of Steve Jones.

The Barry opening batsmen began steadily as they hoped to see off the new ball without any casualties.

Runs came from the bat when needed, and The Stags were up and running with 31 runs coming from the first 12 overs.

Batsmen Steve Jones and Ashley Baker kept the runs flowing until the 18th over, when Baker was caught for 26.

The depth in the batting line-up was not that great and when the top-order batsmen fell, there wasn't much to follow.

Steve Jones (19), Peter Davies (33), Martin Baker (15) and Sam Johnson (12) all produced good starts. However, no-one was able to get that innings-saving score and they collapsed to just 114-8 from their 50 overs.

After the tea break, Barry captain, Martin Baker, gave some encouraging words to the players before they set out to defend their score.

The task was always going to be difficult and, with the strength of the Penarth batting, Barry were always on the back foot.

Bowling performances from Martin Baker (4-2-6-0), Sam Johnson (4-0-12-0), Andy Ellis (6-1-28-0), Dominic Lack (6-0-47-1) and Neil Holmes (5-0-19-0) weren't able to prevent the home side from cruising home within 25 overs as they won by nine wickets.

With this result, Penarth have claimed the Division One title and promotion to the Premier Division of the South Wales Cricket League.

After their respective matches, both sets of players in the 1st XI and the 2nd XI of Barry Athletic CC enjoyed a barbecue and a bingo night, to celebrate the end of another season at the Barry Oval.

AB

WASP with a sting in its tail for riders

RETURNING to its traditional home in the Vale, and drawing a near-capacity field, the Wasp Road Race 2009 was won by George Rose (Abergavenny RC) who crossed the line alone after being in a breakaway with Adrian Bird (Team Echelon Spiuk) for almost the entirety of the race.

The pair broke away on the first of three laps and steadily built their advantage over the field. A two-man chase group formed behind as Ben Simmons (Team Wiggle) and Anthony O'Boyle (Cwmcarn Paragon) tried to bridge to the leaders.

Just as the catch was about to be made, Rose broke away from Bird to ride the final lap alone. O'Boyle and Simmons joined Bird to form a chase group just behind.

A large crash in the bunch broke up the rhythm of the chase, and the peloton's deficit grew to more than three minutes. With 10km to go and still chasing George Rose, O'Boyle punctured and fell back from the chasing group of three.

With the bunch so far back, neutral service couldn't reach O'Boyle but he rode on bravely on the flat tyre to claim fourth place and the combativity award.

Still ahead, George Rose reached the final climb to the finish (the Wasps' famous 'sting in the tail') with a 30-second advantage over Simmons and Bird.

A new location on a bridge gave the finishing crowd a great view of the battle on the climb, as the leaders came up the hill, under the finish, then swung around to finish up on the bridge.

Rose had built on his lead on the climb and comfortably solo'ed in for the victory.

Simmons beat Adrian Bird in for second, before O'Boyle arrived on his flat tyre a little way back. James Lewis (Port Talbot Whs– CJ Construction) had broken away from the bunch at 10km to go, and held on on the climb for 5th place before Tim Rose (Abergavenny RC) led in the remains of the peloton.

Graham Howell (Ogmore Valley Whs) came in near the head of the bunch to claim the juniors prize, while Hannah Rich (Candi TV-Marshals Pasta) came in just behind the bunch as first woman.

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Out and About with The GEM

WHAT'S ON

Sully art
SULLY art group meets on Tuesday afternoons or evenings in the Jubilee Hall or the Old School in Sully.

For more information, ring 02920 707553 or 02920 531262.

Elderly advice
AN Age Concern insurance and products advisor is available on Tuesday mornings at the senior health shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, at 9.30am-11am. *Information on 01446 732385.*

AM's surgeries
CARWYN JONES Assembly Member for Bridgend, will hold constituency surgeries on Friday, September 4, as follows:

Wildmill WATRA, The Precinct (3pm-3.30pm); Penyfai The Pheasant (3.45pm-4.15pm); Pyle Life Centre (4.45pm-5.15pm); Cornelly Community Centre, (5.30pm-6pm).

Vale AM's surgery
JANE HUTT, AM for the Vale of Glamorgan, will be holding a surgery on Saturday, September 5, from 10am-11am in the Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major; and from 11.30am-12noon at The Gathering Place, East Camp, St Athan. No appointment necessary.

Wick Show
WICK Horticultural Society hold their annual show at 2pm on Saturday, September 5, at Wick Village Hall, with classes for all vegetables and flowers, floral exhibits and home bakery with a variety of classes for children.

A total of seven cups is awarded to best exhibitor in each section and a monetary award in the children's section.

Admission 50p, children free. Telephone 01656 890320 for further information.

Councillors' surgery
RESIDENTS are invited to a Plaid Cymru surgery to discuss any concerns or issues.

Councillors Caroline Turner and Barry Shaw will be joined by Keith Stockdale at Holton Primary School, Pyke Street, Barry, from 11am-12 midday on Saturday, September 5. No appointments are necessary.

Dyspraxia support
THE Vale Dyspraxia Support Group will hold its usual monthly meeting on Monday, September 7, at 7.30pm at Barry Hospital.

Parents of children with dyspraxia (and the children) are welcome to discuss issues and experiences and celebrate successes and find out about the support programme.

Pamper time
DROP in for a pamper on Monday, September 7, at 10am-12pm at the Western Vale Integrated Children Centre, Station Road, Llantwit Major and find out what Moving On has to offer.

For further information, telephone 01446 733034.

Floral society
THE autumn-winter session of Barry Floral Society will commence on Tuesday, September 8, when Mrs Margaret Walker of Cheltenham pays a return visit to the club to give a demonstration on 'My World of Colour.

Meetings are held at St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry, at 12.15pm. New members welcome. There is no need to have a garden or be a a gardener, just have a love of flowers.

'Light up the Night'
THE Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth is again holding its annual memorial sponsored walk 'Light up the Night', on Friday, September 11, at 7pm, at Dyffryn Gardens in St Nicholas.

Entertainment includes the RAF St Athan Voluntary Band and Bow Street Strummers. *Call 02920 426068 for a registration form and full details.*

Bridge resumes
MARKET THEATRE Bridge at The Butts, Cowbridge will resume on Friday, September 11, at 1.45pm; £2 per session.

New members welcome. No partner needed and only a basic knowledge of bridge required. Easy-going and friendly. *Telephone Brenda Grove on 01446 772732 for further information.*

Dinas Scout jumble sale
THE 1st Dinas Powys Scout Group Jumble Sale is on Saturday, September 12, at 1.30pm, in the Scout Hall, Highwallis Road, Dinas Powys. Admission is 40p.

Lifeboat dedication
THE naming ceremony and service of dedication of 'Rose of the Shire', Porthcawl's new RNLI Atlantic 85 Inshorre Lifeboat, will be held on Saturday, September 12, at 2pm in Porthcawl Lifeboat Station, The Esplanade, Porthcawl.

NCT sale
THE National Child Birth Trust will hold a nearly new sale on September 12, at 11am-12.30pm in Barry Comprehensive School gym, Port Road West.

Items for sale include children's clothes, toys, baby equipment, maternity wear and prams.

Entrance £1 donation per family (in aid of NCT charity).

PACT MEETINGS

SULLY PACT, Jubilee Hall, September 4, 7pm.
DINAS POWYS PACT, Bethesda Hall, September 7, 7pm.
ST NICHOLAS (Wenvoe ward) Neighbourhood Watch meeting, St Nicholas Village Hall, September 9, 7.30pm.
ST ATHAN PACT, The Hive, West Camp, September 10, 7.30pm.
CASTLELAND PACT, Seaview Labour Club, Dockview Road, September 14, 7pm.
LLANTWIT MAJOR PACT, Leisure Centre, September 15, 7pm.
DYFAN PACT, Barry Comprehensive School, September 16, 6pm.
COURT PACT, Scouts Hall, Illminster Street, September 17, 7.30pm.
CORNERSWELL PACT, Cogan Leisure Centre, September 17, 7pm.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life, but are unable to attend a meeting, contact your local Neighbourhood Policing or log onto www.ourbobby.com

Vale road works report

Western Square, Barry – road closure to allow sewer renewal works.

Barry Road junction with Kenilworth Road, Barry – temporary traffic control to allow for installation of a new sewer.

Church Road, Bridge Street, Cowbridge Street, Barry – traffic barriers in place; carriageway width restrictions.

Pontypridd Street junction with Mount Pleasant, Barry – unsafe structure, pathway restrictions.

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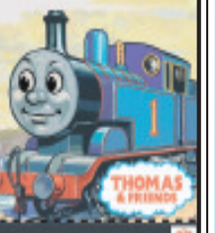

TERMS & CONDITIONS: Voucher valid for tickets for event 12-13th&19-20th September. Only one voucher accepted per booking. No photocopies accepted. Glamorgan GEM and Gwili Railway cannot accept liability for any failure to maintain advertised services and attractions. This voucher cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer.
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Well presented three/four bedroom detached property and attached double garage comprising Lounge, Dining Room with French doors to Conservatory, Refurbished modern Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, En-suite to Master Bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas Central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Open plan to front and good size landscaped rear garden. Freehold Ref 403D

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LLANTWIT MAJOR – £179,950

Established three bedroom semi-detached house with detached garage occupying a corner position comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen with door to Conservatory, Modern shower room. UPVC double glazing throughout. Gas fired central heating. Driveway and good size gardens to front, side and rear. Freehold. Ref 415D.

NEW PRICE

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £169,950

Modern three bedroom semi-detached house situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining area, purpose built Conservatory, modern fitted Kitchen, Bathroom/WC. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows. Driveway and open plan garden to front and enclosed rear garden. Freehold. Ref 424D

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Stone built three bedroom mid terrace house which has been modernised and extended in recent years comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Bathroom/WC. Gas central heating. Double glazed windows and doors. Stone built garden store/workshop. Freehold Ref 458D

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £229,950

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NEW PRICE

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £169,950

Established well maintained extended three bedroom semi-detached house and garage comprising Lounge, Dining room with patio doors to rear, modern well fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom. Office area within the roof space. Double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Paved driveway and garden to front and rear. Freehold Ref 435D.

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £164,950

Modern three bedroom end of link dwelling house with conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen/Diner with patio doors to Conservatory. Double glazed windows. Gas fired central heating. Open plan garden to front and private rear garden. Driveway to the side. Freehold. Ref 439D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £285,000

Modern four bedroom detached house with double garage situated in a cul-de-sac comprising Hallway, Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to rear garden, Well equipped fitted kitchen, Breakfast/Utility Room, En-suite to master bedroom, Family Bathroom. Gas Central Heating. UPVC double glazing. Driveway and open plan to front and private garden to the rear. Freehold. Ref 445D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £275,000

Spacious modern well maintained four bedroom detached house comprising Lounge, Dining Room, Newly fitted well equipped Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Utility Room, Cloakroom, UPVC double glazed Conservatory, En-suite to two of the bedrooms plus Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Driveway and established gardens, Freehold. Ref 446D

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £69,500

Purpose built self contained first floor flat which forms part of a retirement development. Comprises Hallway with walk-in cupboard off, Sitting Room, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bedroom, Modern Bathroom. Gas central heating. Communal facilities of laundry room and guest suite. Parking. Ref 448D

ST ATHAN VILLAGE - £235,000

Very well presented detached family residence and detached garage standing in quite a large plot comprising Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Dining Room/1st Bedroom, Fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Ground Floor Bathroom, Two bedrooms to first floor. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Long driveway and well laid gardens to front and rear and purpose built workshop. Freehold Ref 449D

ST ATHAN VILLAGE - £215,000

Well maintained detached family residence and detached garage comprising Hallway, Lounge/Diner, Re-fitted Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Ground floor Bathroom/Shower Room, Two ground floor bedrooms and two further bedrooms to first floor. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Oil fired central heating. Neatly laid gardens to front and rear. Viewing recommended. Freehold. Ref 453D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £137,500

Very well maintained modern three bedroom end of link house comprising Lounge, Dining Room with patio doors to rear garden, Fitted Kitchen, Utility Room, Store Room, Modern Bathroom. UPVC double glazing. Gas fired central heating. Double paved driveway to front and private rear garden with summer house, workshop, garden shed and greenhouse. Freehold. Ref 460D

NEW

LLANTWIT MAJOR - £169,500

Well presented modern three bedroom end of link dwelling house comprising Hallway, Lounge, refurbished Kitchen/Dining Room, Modern Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. Double glazed windows. Driveway and open plan garden to front and private rear garden. Freehold Ref 463D

NEW

BOVERTON - £139,750

Modern three bedroom link house with garage comprising Porch, Lounge, Well fitted Kitchen/Dining Room, Bathroom. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gas fired central heating. Open plan to front and good size rear garden with access to the garage. Ref 464D

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Rhoose Road, Rhoose.....£550pcm
The Wheate Close, Rhoose £525pcm
Greenacres, Barry £485pcm
Churchfields, Barry.....£525pcm
Glan y Mor, Barry £550pcm
Sir Ivor Place, Dinas Powys £550pcm

3 BEDROOMS
Lougher Place, St Athan £575pcm
Oxford Street, Barry £650pcm

6 BEDROOMS
15 Porfa Ballas £1,500pcm

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A traditional semi detached family property located in the established part of Llantwit Major close to schools easy walking distance to shops and railway station. Briefly the property comprises an entrance porch, sitting room, conservatory, kitchen/diner, utility area, cloakroom/WC, 3 bedrooms, a loft room and a bathroom. Outside is a landscaped garden to the front with off road parking and an enclosed 60' private garden to the rear. The property enjoys UPVC double glazed windows and doors and gas central heating.

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4 bed detached with garage **£225,000**

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3 bed end terrace corner plot **£99,995**

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1 bed 1st floor retirement apartment **£69,950**

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Superb 3 bed family home **£125,000**

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3 bed semi with garage. **£129,000**

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Legal, Public Protection and Housing Department
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Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

AVOCET COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 533514
Suitable for a single person or couple
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £67.76 per week including service charge

CARNE TERRACE, LLYSWORNEY

H4U Reference 232483
Suitable for families
- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £88.15 per week including water charges

CLOS LLAWHADEN, BARRY

H4U Reference 968783
Suitable for families
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £71.44 per week including service charge

COPPERFIELD COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1032059
Suitable for a single person over 55
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm
- Parking

Rent £67.95 per week including service charge

CWRT MELIN Y RHOS, BARRY

H4U Reference 999641
Suitable for a single person over 40
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Parking

Rent £68.41 per week including service charge

EDWARD STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 208860
Suitable for a single person or couple – no pets
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing

Rent £68.45 per week including water charges

GWENOG COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 210643
Suit. for a single person or couple over 60 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Warden and alarm

Rent £94.40 pw inc warden water and alarm charges

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH (2)

H4U Reference 1030519
Suitable for a single person over 55 – no pets
- Studio apartments x 2
- First floor – no lift
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Communal entrance
- Warden and gardens

Rent £98.27 per week including service charge

HAVANT CLOSE, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 1031987
Suitable for a single person, couple or small family
- Two-bedroom flat
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £68.18 per week including service charge

MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 216300
Suitable for families
- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £81.91 per week including water charges

MICHAELSTON CLOSE, BARRY (3)

H4U Reference 216518
Suit. for a single person, couple or family – no pets
- Two-bedroom flats
- Ground floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £80.96 per week including water charges

NORTH WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 217782
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £89.17 per week including water charges

OAK COURT, PENARTH (2)

H4U Reference 1031976
Suitable for a single person over 60 or 55 with medical needs
- (2x) Studio flats (lift)
- Ground and first floors
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Scheme Manager & alarm

Rent £85.96 per week including service charges

PARKLAND WALK, BARRY

H4U Reference 219455
Suit. for a single person or couple over 55 – no pets
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £77.47 p.w. including water and alarm charges

PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1031985
Suitable for a single person over 55
- One-bedroom flat
- First floor – lift available
- Gas central heating
- Double glazing
- Parking and gardens
- Warden and alarm

Rent £97.96 per week including service charge

POWIS VIEW, BARRY

H4U Reference 1031921
Suit. for a single person or couple over 40 or family with older children
- Two-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £73.17 per week including service charges

FEEDBACK

Address	Bids	Band	Reg.
Cwrt Melin Y Rhos	31	Gold	04/08/09
Gwyn James Court	11	Bronze	15/02/07

RHOOSE ROAD, RHOOSE

H4U Reference 247476
Suitable for families
- Five-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £90.20 per week including water charges

ST DYFRIG ROAD, PENARTH

H4U Reference 1032048
Suitable for families
- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden
- Parking

Rent £68.20 per week including service charge

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – VERE STREET & HARVEY STREET

A new development on Vere Street and Harvey Street, Barry

Newydd Housing Association is committed to providing safe sustainable housing in the Cadoxton area and is endeavouring to ensure that the scheme is occupied by a sustainable mix of tenants.

Therefore expressions of interest are invited from members of HOMES4U.

Entrance on Harvey Street

Suitable for a single person or couple disabled or mobility impaired.
- (1x) One-bedroom ground floor flat

Suitable for a single person or couple over 40
- (1x) One bedroom first floor flat

Entrance on Vere Street

Suitable for families or applicants with access to children
- (2x) Two-bedroom ground floor flats

Suitable for couples in employment
- (2x) Two-bedroom first floor flats

Suitable for a single person or couple over 40
- (1x) Two-bedroom second floor flat

You must be a HOMES4U member to apply for any of these homes.

When bidding for more than one property you will be asked to state your order of preference. All descriptions and other details are given in good faith and are believed to be correct but any potential tenant should satisfy themselves as to their correctness.

Bid by text coming soon

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Family Notices

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On Aug 24 peacefully at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, John of Llantwit Major.
Dearly loved father of Sally and Terry, much loved grandfather of Stephanie. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.
Funeral Fri Sept 4, service and cremation 11am at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.
No flowers by request, donations in lieu if desired to Alzheimers Disease Society c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, CF62 3DZ

Andrew Cartledge
Died 09/09/08
It was a year ago today,
You closed your eyes and slipped away,
But in our hearts you'll be,
a loved and treasured memory.
We love and miss you - Mum, Pop, Rob, Glenn, Richard, Shannon, Ann, Sîan.

MARTIN Debbie Louise
Tragically on August 28, Debbie of Llantwit Major. Dearly beloved wife of Peter and loving mother of Troy. Debbie was a dearly-loved daughter of Joyce and sister to Kim, Joanne and Thomas.
Funeral on Wednesday September 9, 2009 in Holy Trinity Church, Marcross at 9.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.00am.
Flowers may be sent to WA Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major, tel 01446 792489.
We are sending a dove to heaven,
With a parcel on it's wings,
Be careful when you open it,
It's full of beautiful things,
Inside are a million kisses,
Wrapped up in a million hugs,
To say how much you mean to us,
And send you all our love.
Goodnight, our lovely Debb.

LEE Betty Jean
Passed away peacefully on August 30, 2009, Betty of Llantwit Major. Dearly-loved wife of the late Ken and mother to David, mother-in-law to Jane, and loving grandmother to Andrew and Beth, Brian and Ceri and great-grandmother to Chloe, Megan, Aimee, Lydia, Kai, Tyler and Joey.
Funeral service on September 9, 2009 at 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium. All enquiries to WA Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major. Tel: 01446 792489

DAVIES-EVANS
Paul
Paul, beloved son of the late Bet, loved brother of John, Julia and the late Janet. Uncle of David, Derek, Kim, Paula, Sarah and Sue; great uncle to Charlie, and brother-in-law of Carmel and Tony. Paul will be missed and always loved by all his family and friends.
Funeral service at Coychurch Crematorium on Wednesday September 9 at 3.45pm. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to 'Intensive Care Unit'.
All enquiries to JR & MF David, Ewenny Road, St Brides Major. Tel: 01656 880308.

SWINNEY
Mabel Catherine (nee George)
Peacefully on 28th August, 2009, Mabel of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved mother of Brian and Garry. Funeral Thursday, 10th September. Service in St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major at 10.15 am followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11.30am. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made by cheque to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o W A Brown & Son. Tel. 01446 792489.

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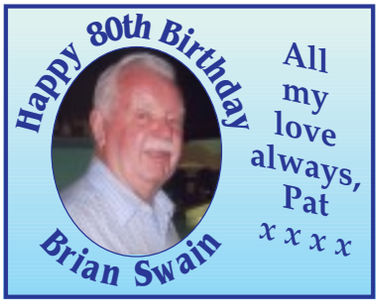

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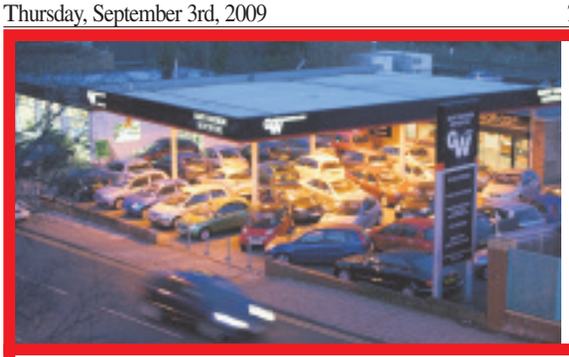

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4x4 / MPV / ESTATE

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SEASON ENDS AS IT BEGAN

Disappointing finish to the season for the Cowbridge firsts

THE cricket season for Cowbridge First XI ended as it began.

It was another familiar story of the batting not being able to post a large enough total to cause the opposition concern, or for the bowlers to feel that they had something to bowl at.

The First XI travelled to Port Talbot for the final match against a resurgent British Steel side.

The home captain won the toss and predictably put the visitors in to bat on what proved to be a rather lively wicket after days under the tarpaulin sheets.

Tom Merilaht and Mike Lloyd opened the batting against probably the best opening bowlers in the division, who proceeded to bowl 30 overs between them and take 6 wickets in the process.

In trying circumstances, with both bowlers generating pace and bounce, the opening pair found runs difficult and could only manage 21 in the first 10 overs when the first wicket fell.

Tom had scored seven when he gave a catch, and Mike went on to score a useful 30 before he gave a catch as well.

Nick Vaile hung around for a while, playing some attractive strokes, until he was eventually caught for 11.

A familiar story was unfolding as the first five batsmen got themselves out by giving the opposition some catching practice for little reward.

Eventually, the innings closed on 104, a poor return for all the effort and certainly not one that was going to give the opposition sleepless nights, despite the fact that, usually, their batting strength is weaker than their bowling.

The Cowbridge bowlers did manage to reduce the home side to 43-4 at one stage.

Lloyd Bishop was the pick of the bowlers, taking 3-35 in 11 overs, but the task of taking 10 wickets for less than 104 runs proved insurmountable.

A partnership of 62 runs from the middle order, a feat the Cowbridge batsmen could not perform, saw British Steel home comfortably.

So the season ended in disappointing fashion, but cricketers are always optimistic and hope that next season will bring a reversal of fortune.

There are reasons for hope; this young side will be that much older and that much more experienced, and let's hope that an injection of older blood might do the trick.

One thing has been certain this year, the introduction of Tom Merilaht, as skipper, has moulded the side into a tight-knit unit with morale, if anything, higher than ever, despite the disappointing summer.

DL

Ladies capture the Cowbridge Challenge Shield

WELL done to the ladies of Cowbridge Bowling Club for winning the Cowbridge Challenge Shield, with a home win against Bridgend Municipal by 81-38 shots (they won the shield by one point!)

The shield is played against eight other teams, at home and away, so again well done to Pauline McAllen and her ladies.

Rink scores were: Shirley Wilkinson's rink of Mary Thomas, Barbara Slade and Pauline McAllen won 26-9, which included two hot shots (full score of eight on an end).

Anne Jarvis' rink of Diane Purnell, Kay Edwards and Joan Bradley won 28-11, and Helena Snelling's rink of Glenys Davies, Lynda Wilson and Marje Smith won 27-18.

They also finished in fourth place in the Glamorgan County Section One, Afternoon League.

So, it has been a very good year for captain Pauline and her ladies.

In a friendly away to Pyle and Kenfig, they lost in a close match by 38-44, only Anne Jarvis' rink of Diane Purnell, Margaret Cooper and Janet Legg, winning 14-9.

Other scores: May Jones' rink lost 9-18 and Joan Bradley's rink lost 15-17.

The men only had one game, a friendly away at Bridgend Municipal, but with heavy rain the match was ended with the score at 36-41, after only 12 ends.

Rink scores: Norman Wilkinson's rink won 11-10; Ron Frayling's rink won 10-9, but Roger Barwick's rink lost 8-10 and Dennis Snelling's lost 7-12.

This weekend saw the club triples played over three days. After a round-robin of eight teams, the semi-finals were played on Sunday morning.

Skip David Jones, with Danny Powell and Judy Springett, beat skip Byron Richards, Diane Purnell and Jean Hunt by 17-3.

In the other match, skip Sue Flower, Eric Sewell and Colin Wilson beat skip Ron Frayling, Lynda Wilson and Barbara Slade by 11-7.

In the final, played in a constant drizzle, David Jones' team won well against Sue Flower's team by 27-9.

This weekend is the finals of all the other club competitions.

NJW

A point gained as Cowbridge AFC returns at last to the football field

AFTER 10 seasons of absence, Cowbridge Town AFC were once again represented at senior level last weekend, as their new-look squad took its bow away at AFC Tadross at a blustery Pencoedtra.

After some hard-work during pre-season, the team, led by new manager Ed Jones, took the field in optimistic mood.

It was the new-look Cowbridge team who had the majority of the play as midfield duo Lloyd Lewis and captain Craig Burrows began to assert their authority on the match.

However, despite their ascendency, Cowbridge failed to break the deadlock and found themselves level at half-time.

The first breakthrough in the match came shortly after the break, although Cowbridge will be disappointed at its source. A speculative long throw was tossed into the box, only to be met well by right back Phillip Harris.

As the ball lofted out for a corner, however, the referee rather softly pointed to the spot, adjudging centre-half Mark Rollings of pushing during the surrounding melee.

Cowbridge protestations fell on deaf ears and the spot-kick was coolly converted by the Tadross striker.

Cowbridge heads didn't drop, however, and with the help of substitutes Luke England and Timothy Howard, the red and blacks rallied for the equaliser.

It came after a burst into the box from substitute England was checked unfairly by the ensuing centre-half.

Jack Gavin stepped up and sent the 'keeper the wrong way from the spot, and suddenly it was Cowbridge who looked favourites to push on for the three points.

Only good saves from the Tadross 'keeper, and narrow offside decisions, prevented the three points coming home with the away side, and senior football returned to Cowbridge with an encouraging and convincing opening day draw.

Cowbridge Town kick off their home league fixtures at the Bear Field, Cowbridge Leisure Centre this Saturday, September 5 at 2.15pm, and encourage all those in the surrounding area to come down and support the boys!

MR

Cowbridge Seconds steel themselves... and sign off with a battling draw

AFTER the horror show of last week, Cowbridge were keen to put in a good performance against British Steel, Port Talbot, in the last game of the season.

Jonty Webb lost the toss and BS Port Talbot asked Cowbridge to bat first on a typical Cowbridge wicket.

Richard Finnucane and Sam Wood started brightly, but owing to a combination of good bowling and a wicket that made batting far from easy, wickets began to fall.

Cowbridge slumped to 39-6 and the situation was looking bleak until Charlie Hoey and Arvind Singhal came to the wicket.

They batted sensibly, running well between the wickets and punishing any bad deliveries that they faced.

Charlie was eventually out for 18, but Arvind, aided and abetted by Chris Cox and the free swinging Jamie Pursey, went on to score a priceless 34 not out, that pushed Cowbridge's score up to 114 at the end of their 50 overs.

Although 114 was a low total, Cowbridge were mindful that the pitch was starting to misbehave and that it would be far from easy for BS Port Talbot when they came to bat.

Cowbridge opened with Chris Cox and Jamie Pursey and they both bowled superbly.

Jamie bowled particularly well from the Bear Field end, bowling a variety of cutters that resulted in him finishing with figures of 4-29 off his 15 overs.

The visitors continued to push the score along, but with the introduction of Harri Collier and Arvind Singhal into the attack, the game swung back in favour of Cowbridge.

Harri bowled excellently, and with Arvind bowling well at the other end, wickets continued to fall. The stage was set for an exciting finish as British Steel, although losing more wickets, edged nearer the total.

The outcome was that Port Talbot, nine wickets down, were left needing 10 runs off the last over of the game.

Unfortunately, Cowbridge were not able to take the last wicket, but secured a well deserved winning draw, as the visitors finished on 105 off their 50 overs.

This has been a frustrating season for Cowbridge Second XI, but there are a number of reasons for optimism.

The performances of the side's junior players, Chris Brace, Sam Wood and Harri Collier, have been excellent, and the consistency in the bowling of Jamie Pursey and Chris Cox has been invaluable.

Jonty Webb would like to thank all the players for their participation throughout the season, and Jeff Davies for his efforts in scoring each Saturday.

It is clear, with the side's blend of youth and experience the future looks bright for Cowbridge Second XI. **JW**

Cowbridge Thirds struggle on wet wicket

THE fortunes of the West Wales XI for the 2009 season can hardly be better reflected than by the fact that the captain lost every toss for the whole season, a chance of 1:1024!

On the other hand, the way the side, especially the younger members, have kept up their morale has been inspiring.

The knowledge that a number of talented youngsters in the junior teams are now on the brink of adult cricket is a real encouragement for the future, but the side does need some more input from senior cricketers to provide the muscle that the opposition always seem to enjoy, and which has been the major cause of the poor season's results.

On August 29, in beautiful conditions if on a rather wet and lush outfield, Pontardawe elected to bat and made 143 for 6.

Initially, Rob Kyriakides used crafty flight and spin into a strong wind to baffle the openers and, in 12 overs, only gave away 27 runs. As ever this season, opposition runs were then made by two strong adult players who in this instance scored three-quarters of Pontardawe's runs between them.

Without some of the senior support, who were away or had been called up to play in the second team, Cowbridge struggled badly, only Avinash Mahdav with 25 making any real impact, and were all out for 73.

The message is clear, and as soon as the team can find that core input and capitalise on the youth talent, things will look up. **JS**

Cowbridge under-15s narrowly miss cut

COWBRIDGE under-15s played at a tournament on the weekend at Cogan, and the team narrowly missed out on reaching the final.

Injuries to Rhys Jenkins, Jamie Livingstone and Stuart Fleming took their toll on the boys, however, they played wonderful football.

This season, if the boys reach the fitness levels needed, play in a competitive nature and use the skills they have developed, they will be a very tough team to beat.

AM

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